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photo Cathy Curry Carlson

August 13 - 16

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A Call to Act With Black Lives Matter

By *Ryanne Gallagher Johnson*

On February 23, 2020, Ahmaud Marquez Arbery, an unarmed 25-year-old Black athlete, out for a jog in a neighborhood in South Georgia, was pursued, shot, and killed by two white supremacists, while a third followed and caught the event on video.

The attackers were Gregory McMichael, a former police officer and retired investigator for the DA's office, and his son Travis. At the time, the Glynn County Police Department (GCPD) said that the Brunswick District Attorney's Office advised them to make no arrests, although the DA has denied this claim. Regardless, no arrests were made. On May 5th, a copy of the video shot by the third man, William "Roddie" Bryan, was given to a local radio station by an attorney, and the station posted it to their website, where the video went viral. Within hours, DA Tom Durden said a grand jury would decide whether charges would be brought, and accepted an offer from Governor Brian Kemp to have the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) investigate the case.

On March 13, 2020, Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old Black female EMT and aspiring nurse was fatally shot by the Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD) in Kentucky, who were executing a no-knock search warrant at her wrongly-identified apartment.

Three plainclothes officers entered her apartment, gunfire was exchanged between Taylor's boyfriend Kenneth Walker and the police, as Walker believed them to be intruders and had a licensed firearm, and the LMPD fired over twenty shots into the apartment. Breonna Taylor was shot eight times. The primary targets of the LMPD investigation that led to the shooting were Jamarcus Glover and Adrian Walker, suspected of selling controlled substances from a house more than ten miles away, and who were already detained by police at the time they entered Ms. Taylor's home. The event has been described as a "botched raid". The police filed an incident report that stated that Taylor had no injuries, even though she died from gunshot wounds, and that no forced entry was involved, even though a battering ram was used. All three officers- Jonathan Mattingly, Brett Hankinson, and Myles Cosgrove- were placed on administrative reassignment. Kenneth Walker was arrested and faced criminal charges, but they were later dismissed. At the writing of this article, only Hankinson has been fired. No other charges or penalties have been brought against the three officers.

On May 25, 2020, George Perry Floyd, Jr.,

a Black father and grandfather, referred to by family and friends as a "gentle giant", was killed during an arrest after allegedly passing a counterfeit \$20 bill in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

While Mr. Floyd was handcuffed and face down on the street, white police officer Derek Chauvin pressed his knee to Floyd's neck for eight minutes and forty-six seconds. During this time, two other officers helped to restrain him, while a fourth prevented onlookers from intervening. The event was caught on camera by several witnesses. In the recordings, Mr. Floyd can be heard shouting "I can't breathe" repeatedly, but no action was taken to remove Chauvin's knee from the prone man's neck. For the final three of those minutes, Mr. Floyd was motionless and had no pulse, but officers made no attempt to revive him. Chauvin kept his knee on the man's neck as arriving EMTs attempted to treat him. The official autopsy report classified Mr. Floyd's death as a homicide attributed to cardiopulmonary arrest caused by subdual and restraint. A second autopsy, commissioned by Floyd's family, found that the "evidence is consistent with mechanical asphyxia as cause of death, with neck compression restricting blood flow to the brain, and back compression restricting breathing."

* * *

These three events weren't the first, they weren't the last, but they were the magical trifecta that sparked the most widespread awareness, anger, mobilization, attendance, attention, and uprising within the movement known as Black Lives Matter.

This Black-centered anti-racist advocacy and activist movement was begun in 2013 by Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi, in response to the acquittal of the murderer George Zimmerman for the slaying of Trayvon Martin, a 17 year old Black high school student from Miami Gardens, Florida. Trayvon was pursued by Zimmerman and fatally shot while visiting his father's fiancée in a gated community, a place he had frequented many times before.

Over the course of the last several weeks, demonstrations and protests have signaled just how enormous this movement has grown. The country has been at a boiling point for years- over four centuries, really, and these deaths, against the backdrop of the worst pandemic that the U.S. has seen since the Flu of 1918, created an explosion for the Black Lives Matter movement.

As millions of people were at home and out of work, with nothing but time on their

hands, the surfacing of the stories of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd created an outcry for the end of systemic racism at a simultaneously global level for the first time ever. Across all fifty of our United States, and around the world, more than 4,100 cities and towns have held demonstrations and protests to date. A multitude of voices from several countries are demanding justice, condemning racism, and speaking out against police brutality.

To be clear, Black Lives Matter in no way means that only Black lives matter. It means that right now, the largest and most pressing issue is specifically surrounding Black lives and the racism they experience categorically because of skin color. It's a necessary movement, and it's important that everybody, especially white people, pay attention.

All of this recognition, work, participation, demonstrating, social media posting, calling, writing, tweeting, and the overall massive number of people in this emerging transracial coalition working for and with Black Lives Matter, seems to be enacting change.

Four days after killing George Floyd, Derek Chauvin was charged with third-degree murder, which was upgraded to second-degree murder after protests demanded better. The three other officers present at Floyd's arrest have been charged with aiding and abetting second-degree murder. The FBI has also recently launched an investigation into the death of Breonna Taylor following local public pressure.

The New Jersey attorney general has announced it will update its use-of-force rules for the first time in almost twenty years. The Dallas Police Department adopted a "duty to intervene" rule requiring fellow officers to step in if someone is using excessive force. Minneapolis, Washington DC, Chicago, and Denver, among other locales, have banned the use of choke holds. Major school districts across the country are cutting links to police departments and instituting their own community safety measures.

The Governor of Colorado has made the state the first to enact legislation that bars qualified immunity, a legal doctrine that protects police officers accused of violating civilian's rights, as a defense to state constitutional claim. At the federal level, the Ending Qualified Immunity Act was introduced to the U.S. Congress on June 4th by Justin Amash and Ayanna Pressley.

Minneapolis lawmakers also vowed to disband the city's police department less than two weeks after Mr. Floyd's death, for which a demand was made to "defund

the police".

While the branding for this latest call to action at the level of law enforcement is, admittedly, not ideal, the idea behind it is quite progressive. The goal of defunding the police is not to get rid of law and order all together, but rather to end policing by thinly-stretched organizations as we know it, and rebuild a system of law enforcement that works hand in hand with other agencies to keep communities safe on more than just one level.

By cutting back on the gross amounts of funding to so many police departments across the country- the likes of which bought a fleet of Lamborghini Gallardos for the LAPD in 2014, while 8,500 families are homeless and 500,000 children go to school hungry every year in the same city, more funding can be put towards agencies that provide health and human services in humane and practical ways. In short, this would divest some of the funds for police departments and re-allocate them to agencies such as social services, youth services, housing, education, healthcare, and other community resources.

The murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd have also galvanized more white people to start to really pay attention, listen, and educate themselves on the systematic ways our country has spent centuries marginalizing Black people. Books about race, Black lives, and antiracism are flying off shelves faster than most stores can order them, audio book sales in the same genres are at an all-time high, documentaries about systemic racism in the U.S. are trending across all streaming services, famous white actors, musicians, writers, and artists are lending their platforms to "share the mic" with Black voices, Black stories are being amplified, and shopping small Black businesses is being encouraged and practiced more widely.

Monuments that were erected to celebrate Confederate leaders who literally fought for the right to keep people enslaved, are being removed by some city governments and Universities.

Walmart has agreed to stop locking up the displays for multicultural beauty products, a practice that is not done with the products for white people. Prominent groups across the board are condemning racism, with the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the American College of Physicians declaring racism a public health crisis.

Juneteenth, celebrated on June 19th to honor the day in 1865 when, more than

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The Freedom of Expression and the Future of the Press

On June 25th a news feature in The Guardian reported that the Chinese government provides tours to foreign correspondents in a bid to promulgate benign perspectives of The People's Republic. The newspaper cautioned that 'at a time when news organisations are being pauperised, reporters who accept Chinese hospitality may risk compromising their own journalistic ideals... their very presence makes them tools of a Chinese state that uses them in domestic propaganda to shore up its own legitimacy... its advances can only weaken the "Fourth Estate" model of journalism.' A great deal is at stake in failing to protect the Fourth Estate model of journalism and its traditional role in forming a credible bulwark against the species of censorship adopted by China. Yet official censorship is only one manifestation of censorship in our time. We ignore at our peril stealthier threats to the freedom of expression, which have intensified since the pandemic struck this Spring.

The assault on freedom of expression from the right, such as from autocratic governments, is simple to spot. It is easy to identify a critical mass of censorship, mandated by a strongman leader—in Putin's Russia or Orbán's Hungary. Equally, the Law and Justice party in Poland, which consolidated its power with a recent presidential victory, will now become even more determined to hobble what remains of the independent judiciary in Poland and to repress free speech.

But the biggest threat to free expression in the West today stems not from repressive governments or economic pressures on journalism but from the deadening conformity that has engulfed the media. A recent example of this is RTÉ's decision to purge tapes from its archives a comedy sketch broadcast in March 1982. The sketch features an RTÉ celebrity, Twink, wearing black-face and acting as Gladys Day with her musical accompaniment, the Pits. RTÉ explained: 'times have changed since then...content made in the past may no longer be acceptable by today's standards...RTÉ will give due consideration to the content and make decisions in keeping with our editorial standards and audience expectations'.

This is a book burning. RTÉ is Ireland's national broadcaster. Its archive, underwritten by the taxpayer, forms part of the national memory and record. It

must be preserved to facilitate discussions, including painful ones. As it stands now, filmmakers and film scholars interested in accessing the wholly forgettable Gladys Day and the Pits sketch will be unable to find it in RTÉ's archives. RTÉ experienced none of the coercion that journalists routinely face in Russia and China, which makes its capitulation to 'today's standards' and 'audience expectations' all the more callow. At a time when the Chinese government is removing books from collections in public libraries in Hong Kong, despite a year of determined demonstrations to prevent such authoritarian incursions, RTÉ's self-imposed defacement of its (our) archive is unpardonable.

The strengthening liberal propensity to censor plays straight into the hands of those who seek to limit freedom, and it is destroying liberalism. From every perspective—moral, political and practical—it is a dreadful mistake. It is stymieing the press from highlighting piecemeal and smaller-scale erosion of democratic rights when they occur. These incursions have intensified during the Covid-19 pandemic under the guise of protecting people. While there is a chasm between requiring citizens to take basic precautions against the coronavirus and censoring the press, governments have seized upon the chance to conflate the two. For instance, a recent satirical article that appeared in a German news sheet, Tageszeitung, referred to the police as 'rubbish people.' In response, German Minister for the Interior Horst Seehofer made a whopping claim: 'A lack of inhibition in language inevitably leads to a lack of inhibition in deeds, and to excesses of violence, just as we saw in Stuttgart... We cannot accept this any longer.' The incident in Stuttgart to which Seehofer referred was a protest against lockdown restrictions that led to a confrontation between demonstrators and the police. The journalist's colleagues stood with her and prevailed against the threat of governmental censorship. Seehofer relented. It was the determination on the part of the journalists to uphold the principle of free speech that exposed Seehofer's bullying for what it was.

Yet, despite free speech's foundational importance for a free press, the self-styled liberal press increasingly silences

View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



voices merely on the grounds that the views expressed do not conform to the ever constricted view of 'correct' contemporary standards and expectations. A recent open letter in Harper's Magazine decried 'an intolerance of opposing

acknowledge what is lost when a newspaper disappears. Studies have shown that when local newspapers cover crime rates, monitor elected representatives and demand transparency their efforts have tangible results. Conversely, when media attention disappears, corruption and cronyism proliferate; voter turnout diminishes; local stakeholders are airbrushed by larger consortia; communities die. Above all, the watchdog dimension of journalism is imperceptibly replaced with

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views, a vogue for public shaming and ostracism, and the tendency to dissolve complex policy issues in a blinding moral certainty... We need to preserve the possibility of good-faith disagreement'. Irish novelist John Banville, one of the co-signatories of the letter, hit the nail on the head in his description of censorship from liberal sources: 'A mob is a mob, even when its aims are benign—the end cannot be allowed to seem to justify the means'.

And, if maintaining a free press were not challenging enough, journalism's business model is now almost completely shattered. Thousands of newspapers around the world, which were already at risk before the pandemic, now face an existential threat due to the economic nosedive caused by Covid-19. Many have closed since March. It is imperative to

a chilling of freedom of speech. The crisis for the free press to report 'without fear or favour' is inextricably linked with the crisis of liberalism to fulfill its own ideals. We urgently need to defend free expression and a free press—they constitute the cornerstone of Democracy.

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two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued, Union soldiers landed in Galveston, Texas and told enslaved Black Americans there that they were free, has become a paid holiday within companies such as Twitter, Nike, and Vox Media.

Many, many other changes have been made across the country, just in the last several weeks, in the name of Black Lives Matter. And still, there are miles to go in this movement.

The hope and dream is that in the very near future, the systems that were put into place during and directly following the end of our history of enslaving people and stealing their labor, knowledge, and skills for centuries, and have only changed in ways that served to keep them marginalized in our country, will end. In their place, we want progressive, genuinely fair, and humane systems to be built and maintained for the next 400+ years. And then maybe, hopefully, we can finally make America good.

For those interested in educating themselves on Black Lives Matter, you can visit [blacklives-](http://blacklives-matter.com)

[matter.com](http://blacklives-matter.com).

Recommended books on race:
How to Be An Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi
I'm Still Here: Black Dignity In a World Made for Whiteness by Austin Channing Brown
So You Want to Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo
The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander
The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson
Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

Recommended documentaries about racism and Black lives:
13th (2016)
16 Shots (2019)
Crime + Punishment (2016)
The Life & Death of Marsha P Johnson (2017)
Ferguson: A Report from Occupied Territory (2015)
I Am Not Your Negro (2016)
Let the Fire Burn (2013)
Stay Woke: The Black Lives Matter Movement (2013)
When They See Us (2019)

The time has passed for us to simply not be racist. The time has come for us to be actively anti-racist.

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From the Motherland

By Sean Farrell

HOSPITAL PASS? CORONA VIRUS CASES AS OF JULY 22 2020

	ISRAEL	IRELAND
15 April	12,762 (139)	12,136 (444)
31 May	17,192 (287)	24,990 (1649)
1 July	26,462 (325)	25,477 (1738)
22 July	56,085 (430)	25,819 (1754)

Who Would Want To Be Taoiseach?

Micheal Martin for one, though just a month in he may be having second thoughts. He has already fired Minister for Agriculture Barry Cowen, for a legacy DUI offence from 2016, has had to quell backbench resentment over appointments, has had to balance reopening the Economy against a possible resurgence in COVID 19 infections and has had to supervise the bedding down of Ireland's unlikely Coalition Government. All this as the goodwill, consensus and solidarity generated in the public response to the Virus has ebbed,

the perennial issues on which last February's election was fought have re-surfaced and the slow simmering Brexit is beginning to come to the boil. Moreover the terms of the coalition agreement, by obliging him to step aside after 30 months, deprive him of the props which normally sustain a head of government - control of the timetable and expectation of sufficient time to get the job done.

Parking for a moment the possibility that "events dear boy" - Harold Macmillan's phrase - may intervene to up-



set his now twenty nine month tenure, with the ever present threat that one of the his coalition partners may walk over policy or scandal, there is no doubt which should be Martin's priority for his legacy - how he handles the Corona Virus, now a clear, immediate and present danger. We do not know how the Virus Crisis will evolve, but any perceived mishandling will be laid at Martin's door. The Varadkar Government performance on the Virus met with wide approval and restored his - and Fine Gael's - fortunes after an abysmal election campaign, fought primarily on how the Government handled Brexit, an issue still in the abstract for most and not high on the electorate's priorities.

And, ironically, the Brexit example has analogous relevance for Martin also. If he gets it right on the Corona Virus, he won't necessarily win any brownie points, but will then be judged on housing, the economy and whatever other issue surfaces in the meantime. The Cowen affair was one that happens in politics, the message has now got through to his aggrieved backbenchers that this time around the plum appoint-

ments are of necessity few, and Cowen's replacement, Fianna Fail deputy leader Dara Calleary, has righted the major omission from Martin's original team. The new government appears to be settling down and while most of the aspirations in the Programme for Government are likely to remain just that, given the pressure on resources, it will have at least a brief honeymoon to advance some of its priorities on Housing, the Environment and Health. A hard Brexit at year's end remains a looming danger.

But first there is the Corona Virus, which is not going, and will not go, away until a vaccine or some treatment magic bullet is both developed and readily available. Until then we are essentially at war, and, as during World War Two, we cannot ignore what is happening around us. And here currently Ireland is very much at a crossroads. As the economy was reopened, even cautiously, in recent weeks we have noticed, as elsewhere, that the number of new cases has begun to increase again. The numbers are still minute (350 since the beginning of July with 16 deaths), but so infectious is the Virus that the rate of spread can rapidly become geometric.

Right now the nightmare scenario is Israel. Consider the figures (apologies) heading this article for Ireland and Israel on four dates; they are of reported cases with deaths in brackets; they make for chilling reading. Israel had been early into locking down and very successful in minimising the number of deaths. Then from mid- June the country began to relax...

Set against the unfolding disaster of the Virus' progress in the USA, Ireland has been relatively successful in combatting it. The country was in

Ireland could have done better, certainly, like the Scandinavians, Sweden apart, or Austria, but it could also have done horribly worse, as in Britain, for several reasons. Ireland is an EU Member State with a small open society and economy. As an island it is heavily reliant on air and sea traffic for trade and contact; it has also a very much open border with Northern Ireland, which applies British Corona Virus regulations. Ireland has a significant Tourist industry with the largest numbers of tourists coming from Britain and the USA and has up to now applied a relaxed attitude to visitors at its borders. Moreover very high numbers of Irish residents holiday abroad with Spain, Italy, Greece, Portugal, Britain and the USA the favourite destinations. The often made comparison with New Zealand does not really apply.

As Ireland saw other European countries begin to re-open, without apparently precipitating any cataclysmic second wave (cases surging in places but without any surge in deaths - yet). domestic pressure told and a cautious re-opening began. Which is where we are at. Already there have been problems mirroring happenings elsewhere in Europe and the USA - little social distancing, particularly among the young, who account for many of the new cases - and some expressions of resentment over regulations to control what is widely perceived to be an ailment easily shrugged off by younger people who are impatient to see "normality" restored. Again, the wartime analogy has relevance here; "Normality" is a long way away and indeed is likely to be superseded by a newer altered version as we learn to live with the disease.

The first critical issue to arise for the new government has been over Border Controls. Should we close our borders totally? Should we impose strict quarantine on those arriving - instead of just an unenforceable and largely unverifiable "honour" system of self-quarantine? What about visitors from and tourists arriving via Northern Ireland? How to cope with visitors, including some from the USA, who anecdotally thought the Virus crisis over exaggerated? And what about the two million or so who holiday abroad annually; how to treat them on return? The first attempts at constructing a list of "safe" countries have been ridiculed; the list of fifteen includes Monaco, San Marino, Gibraltar and Greenland, not to mention Italy. Hardly an auspicious start. The Taoiseach will have to do better; but can he win either way?

Sean Farrell is a retired Irish diplomat and former Irish Consul General in Chicago in 2006-2007.

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the first epicentre, Western Europe, fortunately after Italy and Spain, but clearly by the end of May had a sizeable number of deaths, over half in retirement homes, and a rising number of cases. Then the effects of the lockdown began to be felt fully, with gratifying results, apparent during June. The curve was virtually flattened totally and some experts and commentators suggested that the Virus could be all but wiped out, taking a cue from New Zealand and some of the East Asian countries, were the lockdown to be continued. The dilemma was that every day of lockdown further damaged the economy, particularly in the seasonal tourist and hospitality sectors.

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This is a little story written by Anraoi O Liathain (Harry Lyons) 1917 -1981 who was raised in the parish of Glendine in rural West Waterford. All his works were published in the medium of the Irish language, and the tragedy is that very few people have been able to read his literary output due to the decline of the Irish language, in this and previous generations. However, I have managed to translate it into English, and I hope you enjoy it. The story is a tribute to Fr. Patrick Lonergan who administered in the parish in the early part of the 20th century.

A Kindly Priest

Inside the Church gate in a particular parish in the Munster Deise of County Waterford there is a monument that is so unusual that it hardly has a counterpart across all of Ireland. It is only a cross made of black marble with a biretta, chalice and other priestly symbols engraved on it. Thirty years ago (1931) the body of Father Patrick Lonergan was put into the ground under this cross in the parish of Knockanore in West Waterford.

Now, Irish people are given to have knowledge of saintly people who live in far off countries. We are forever reading about priests and nuns that spend their lives in Italy, Spain, France, every country on the world map, except our small little one. It is hard to believe but there hasn't been a saint in Ireland for the past eight hundred years!

Well, it is not for me to have opinions in relation to the parish and the people in authority, but I am certain sure of this: there isn't a parish in Ireland where there was a priest who approached the esteem of the saints through piety, charity and humility in this way. A person of this calibre was Father Patrick Lonergan who was Parish

Priest of Knockanore in the Western Deise from 1912 until he went to his eternal reward on the 12th of May 1931.

In this short article I would not be able to describe the life of Father Lonergan in great detail. He was a scholarly man but he lived a simple life. He was a man of the people. He didn't like to give the impression to his parishioners that he was too well off, especially if they were struggling a bit themselves. He would never spend much money on his clothes. He was always around the place, working ceaselessly, in a pair of worn out shoes and a suit that was faded green with age.

And, as regards what he would eat, well, Bishop Bernard Hackett had a little story about the first time he had a meal in Father Lonergan's house. The Bishop came to Knockanore to perform confirmation on the children of the parish. When the ceremony was over the Parish Priest asked the Bishop to come up to his house for a bit of dinner, which was the usual procedure for such an occasion.

They went into the house. The kitchen was bare looking and there was no sign of a housekeeper. The priest pointed his finger to a bag that was in the corner of the kitchen.

'You'll find potatoes in that bag', he said. 'Start washing the whole lot of them and I'll head out to the garden for a head of cabbage'

And there they were the Bishop and the Parish Priest making dinner for themselves. I would think that there wasn't a house in the parish that day where a poorer dinner was served, but the Bishop would often declare afterwards that it was the nicest meal he ever had in his life!

There were many people at the time who lived in a very miserly way, but when Father Lonergan died he left very little money after him. People were surprised at that, as the people of the parish were very generous to him every year, at Christmas, at Easter and also at the Stations. A short while after he died, however, it was discovered where the money went - a pound to a poor woman here, five pounds to a hungry house there, that was it - and all of that without a word to anybody.

Father Lonergan also believed that the Irish language was the best protection for religion in Ireland. Of course, some people thought him foolish for this, according to the clever writers of the time, but he lived according to his faith. The family rosary was recited in the church before mass and

he often preached the sermon in Irish, especially on St. Patrick's Day. He would go into the houses to converse in Irish with the elderly people, and also to learn from them, as he would say himself. Indeed, he wasn't to blame for the fact that the Irish language would eventually die out in Knockanore - as it did in the vast majority of other areas in the Country.

It is often said that we are a hardy people in the Western Deise, and not many people would have the ability to rain gentleness on us and soften our hearts. But when Father Lonergan died the people of Knockanore, Kilwatermoy and Glendine came together, lined the grave of the priest with moss,

Kennedy Rooftop Opens with Panoramic City Views in Wicker Park

By Isabelle Brookover

The Kennedy Rooftop, at 1551 W. North Avenue, Chicago's newest rooftop venue complete with unobstructed city views that span from the John Hancock to the Willis Tower is now open. The venue pays homage to the trendy, modern fabric that makes up its surroundings through everything from the fresh, sensational design and décor to the vibrant craft cocktail menu.

Honoring its namesake, the Kennedy Rooftop bar offers a craft cocktail menu that plays off of Presidents past. Most notably, "The JFK" is a rotating cocktail released monthly, as Kennedy himself was famous for never having nailed down a signature drink. From the kitchen, guests should anticipate indulging in a range of offerings from simple small plates to decadent dishes including the Wicker Wich, assembled with oven-baked cilantro lime chicken, layered high with toppings and served on a toasted brioche bun, as well as vegetarian and vegan options, including the Beyond Delicious Burger, topped with smashed avocado, oven-roasted tomatoes, citrus arugula mix, fresh house-made salsa and served on a toasted brioche bun.

"While current circumstances are far from traditional, we have created an experience that is anything but ordinary and are ecstatic to share that safely and responsibly with the community," said Adam Miller, general manager at the restaurant. "We have ample seating to allow for a socially-distant Summer for all and look

ferns, primroses and wild bluebells, until it was like a little sunken forest and then the body was laid into it gently.

It was the same people who erected the cross over the grave also, and it was said that the likes of it for beauty hadn't an equal in the rest of Ireland. In reverence to Father Lonergan's love of the Irish language, it was in the Irish language that every letter was engraved into the black marble.

Wouldn't it gladden the heart that this wonderful priest was held in such high regard and affection by his own parishioners.

Anraoi O Liathain (1961)
Translation to English by Bill Daly c2016

forward to welcoming everyone to take in the remarkable views and enjoy the space with as much excitement as we had while creating it."

Opening responsibly in a socially-distant climate, Kennedy Rooftop will be working diligently to protect the safety of both the guests and staff members alike, closely monitoring and adhering to both local and federal guidelines and ordinances as the city continues to advance in its multi-level plan to re-open. Kennedy Rooftop, 1551



W. North Avenue, Chicago, IL 773.270.6770

Kennedy Rooftop is open to guests seven days a week: Monday through Thursday from 4PM until 12AM, Friday's from 12PM until 2AM, Saturday's from 11AM until 2AM, and Sunday's from 11AM until 11PM. The scenic venue is located on the seventh floor of Hyatt Place Chicago / Wicker Park, just off the Kennedy Expressway at North and Ashland. For more information, including the full food and beverage menu, please visit www.kennedyrooftop.com.

Editor's Note:

James F. Kelley Jr., a contributor to this paper also recommends the Kennedy Rooftop and it's beautiful city views.



Midsummer madness, the terror of absolute confinement in the California desert resort of Palm Springs. Today's temperature soaring to 120 degrees so its essential to stay put in the comfort of air-conditioning and speculate on topics rarely talked about. Ghosts head my list and belief in them was part of traditional rearing in Ireland. Ghosts were everywhere, every family had stories and as a child I prayed a nice ghost would appear to me. I also prayed that the Virgin Mary would appear heralding my holiness and at the age of seven rendering me famous. I built a grotto to the Mother of God at the back of the garden, wild flowers changed daily but alas, I was bypassed, the children of Fatima clearly were preferred.

Every Irishman and woman harbor an abundance of ghost stories, many told with gusto accompanied with liberal vocal sounds, moaning, gusts of wind, footsteps and knocks on the arms of chairs. Children were riveted spawning nightmares. What caught my eye during the current incarceration is a US government survey published in the New York Times that 45% of Americans believe in ghosts. Could be they are Irish American citizens. There is no scientific evidence for the existence of ghosts although the PEW Research Center found that 18% of Americans believe they have seen or otherwise encountered one.

John E.L. Tenny, a paranormal researcher, a former host of the TV show "Ghost Stalkers," estimated he received two to five reports of a haunted house every month in 2019. More recently that number has escalated from five to ten per week. Ironically Michigan rates as one of the top ten haunted cities in the United States.

During my childhood adults spoke often about seeing a ghost, a dark shadow on a country road, a moan from a ditch, a door opening in the night the sense of nearness of a diseased friend or relative. The Irish thrived on the folklore of ghosts and their stories. In my adulthood I erased testimony of a moan from a ditch as proof of a ghost, more likely two young lovers hidden from sight, moaning having their way with each other. Nonetheless growing up I listened to my mother and her sisters spinning stories about their young lives in Inniskeen, County Monaghan, the birthplace of Irish poet Patrick Kavanaugh. Their home was haunted by a ghost named Simey. At night they'd hear the latch lift on the outside gate, hear footsteps, a tap or two on the front door. It was always opened to welcome the invisible Simey who allegedly lived there in by-gone days. When he came too frequently the parish priest was summoned for prayer and a house blessing, forever explaining the spirit of Simey was serving out a sentence imposed by Heaven, therefore



Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

unable to rest until his mission on earth was complete.

The ghost stories were told at nighttime, sitting around the fire, and depending on the skills of the narrator, sounds were uttered putting the fear of God into the wee ones terrified of going to bed in the dark.

Perhaps the current pandemic has given rise to ghosts and poltergeist activity. We are house bound, we hear creeks in the night, a book dislodged, falling from a book shelf, a full moon, a wild cat screeching outside, recalling the banshee who keened loudly when a person was close to death. Back then the mythology and odd phenomena pertaining to the weeping banshee was that death came in threes. My old Granny when visiting, making porridge in the morning often sighed, asking if we heard the banshee. Sometimes, being the oldest, I did and Granny would say we can expect two other deaths in coming days. If memory serves me, I recall she was generally right on the mark.

The strong and ancient tradition of ghostly appearances in Ireland partnered with history and culture. A country full of old castles with secret rooms, and while some of the stories are figments of lively imaginations, there are other tales that cannot easily be explained away. Dublin's Mercier Press published a slim volume of Irish Ghost Stories in 1965. The writer Patrick J. Byrne died in 1960, a fifth-generation Dubliner, a journalist

who documented one of the strangest stories about Gormanston Castle, in County Meath. Purchased by the Preston family who came to Ireland from Lancashire early in the 14th century, settling as merchants in Drogheda, County Louth. According to local folklore, one of the Vicecounts Gormanston was participating in a hunt when the fox was located in a

secluded part of the demesne. Hounds were going in for the kill when the viscount saw that the fox was a vixen trying to protect her litter. The crest of the Viscounts Gormanston is a running fox while the animal forms one of the supporters of the daily coat-of-arms. If the head of the house died, foxes from the surrounding countryside congregated at the castle. In 1860 when the twelfth viscount lay dying, foxes moved towards the house for several days. According to legend, just prior to his death foxes came in pairs into the demesne and sat underneath the vicecount's window, barking and howling through the night. In the morning they were found all around the outside, walking through the poultry pen without touching them, nor were the foxes touched by the dogs. After the funeral the animals returned to their natural habitat. The castle was subsequently purchased by the Franciscan Fathers, and is currently a college. If foxes are spotted walking tamely around the campus, it is said the reason might be they know that the place is under the patronage of the followers of the saint who loved animals and called them his brothers. In reality, no one even knows what a ghost is, or if they are in communication with the living. So where are the fairies, the demons, the black cats, the devil, human possession by demonic influences? The necessity of exorcisms? Stay tuned!

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Sisters Lawless at The Dearborn Tavern Serve Up Irish Hospitality in the Heart of Chicago

By Katie Iannitelli

"I've been on the advisory board of the IRA for two years," says Clodagh Lawless, veteran Chicago restaurateur and co-owner of The Dearborn Tavern, 145 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, (with her equally experienced sister, Amy Lawless).

I stop typing and raise an eyebrow at the Irish-born siblings sitting across from me, shoulder to shoulder, in a lounge-style, mirror-backed, leather upholstered booth. They are clad in business suits and wear masks that don't hide their mischievous smiles.

Clodagh holds the suspense for a moment, then laughs. "Not that IRA," she reveals with a grin. "The Illinois Restaurant Association - the I-R-A."

Within the sphere of Illinois fine dining, being nominated to serve on this particular advisory council is a great honor, she explains, with distinctively Irish discomfort at the faintest thought of boasting.

But the truth is that both of these consummately professional sisters, as well as The Dearborn Tavern, have received countless awards and write ups and have been featured in online and print publications around the world.

Their success is no surprise. The two grew up, quite literally, in restaurants.

During the harsh economic conditions of Galway City's 1970s urban sprawl, their parents, then dairy farmers on the outskirts of town, were forced to make a change.

"Farming was a tough industry in the seventies," Clodagh says. "My dad sold the farm ... and bought a pub."

With no formal experience, Billy and Anne Lawless made "The Gallows" into a great success and went on to operate several other prosperous establishments in Ireland, eventually expanding into an 18-room hotel.

"Our parents are fantastic. They worked so hard," Clodagh says, attributing their success to natural warmth and generosity. "Their level of hospitality was just so genuine."

In fact, the sisters say, a Sunday didn't go by without a customer or employee invited to their family's dinner table.

"They were always on the lookout for anyone that was alone," Clodagh says. "It definitely is an Irish hospitality trait. It's a way: come in, come in, have a cup of tea, stay for dinner, you will. It's just our culture. My mother would say, 'There's always enough in the pot.'"

As Amy, Clodagh, and their two brothers, J.P. and Billy, labored alongside their

parents - washing dishes, serving coffee, clearing tables, bartending, waiting tables - they learned the business.

"All our memories were helping our parents in the restaurant," Clodagh says. "They instilled so much in us, teaching us hospitality and hard work ... in the going and doing of everyday life."

Then, in 1997, while Amy attended college in Massachusetts on a rowing scholarship and Clodagh worked a post-university year at Irish Times Pub & Restaurant in Brookfield, Ill., their father moved the family, formally, to the United States.

"It manifested overnight," Clodagh says. "My father is impulsive and is not afraid of a challenge. We weren't quite ready, but all of the sudden we were all here."

In 1998, their parents opened The Irish Oak at 3511 N. Clark St., which quickly became a staple in Chicago's Irish American bar scene. While managing the pub, Clodagh and Amy dreamt of opening an upscale tavern together, but knew they needed to gain more experience operating downtown restaurants with considerable volumes.

Again, they found the opportunity to learn within their own family, and went to work with their brother, Billy, co-owner of The Gage restaurant at 24 S. Michigan Ave. While Clodagh focused on human resources and finances, Amy stepped up to manage the floor.

"I had to learn to run a business, something other than just bartending," Amy says.

"It was great timing for us that we could just walk in the door," Clodagh adds with gratitude, affirming that it was at The Gage where they truly earned their chops.

Meanwhile, living a floor apart in the same Wrigleyville building with their respective spouses and children, they continued to formulate a plan. They conducted market research, patronized restaurants from coast to coast, noted styles, tasted dishes, sipped cocktails, collected menus, and, most importantly, searched for just the right space.

"When we saw this location (the south-east corner of Dearborn St. and Randolph St.), we knew this was it," Amy says. "Being on the corner, seeing all the hustle and bustle opposite Daley Plaza and the theaters. We knew it was the right fit for us. It felt like we were home."

Once committed to their dream locale, they took on a host of new challenges.

"We wanted to do as much as possible on our own," Clodagh says, noting that in

previous restaurants their parents had conducted the bulk of the preliminary tasks. "The big, scary money things, meeting with all the construction guys, even learning how to read a print from scratch."

The key to their success, they say, was in never being afraid to ask questions.

"Whether it was at a bank loan meeting or a construction meeting ... it was gaining the confidence to say, 'Right now I don't get what you're saying,' without being ashamed or embarrassed. (If we had to, we would ask them) to explain it two or three times. We learned so much. That was such a sense of achievement."

Anticipating a business-lunch and theater-going clientele, they partnered with Executive Chef Aaron Cuschieri, who took their vision (along with their vast collection of market-research menus) and created a list of offerings that could be made efficiently, from scratch, to serve patrons pressed for time.

Since opening in 2016, the sisters recount, they've learned from their mistakes, course corrected along the way, and have come to realize the importance of trusting each other in their respective and complementary roles.

"Amy is the hospitality person, the face of The Dearborn," Clodagh says. "I'm in the office taking care of finances and the administrative side. We quickly learned to accept our strengths and know that you can't know everything."

In that vein, the sisters give limitless credit to their spouses. Clodagh's husband, Colm Murphy, a stationary engineer with a knack for fixing anything, keeps the restaurant "looking like a bright new shiny penny" even when hundreds of guests are coming and going, Clodagh says.

Amy's wife, Dr. Cynthia Galvan, "liaises as a medical consultant" to their team, helping them work through issues to do with employee wellness and health insurance. "Cynthia and Colm make us look good," she says.

And while business boomed for three years, when COVID-19 hit in March, they had little choice but to close down operations temporarily.

"It was a ghost town in the Loop," Amy says. "All the offices were closed; government buildings were closed."

Giving up, however, was not on the menu. They waited it out and focused their efforts on instituting social distancing practices to encourage customer confidence during the pandemic.

"Our high standards were there before-

hand," Clodagh assures. "We're strictly adhering to the guidelines given out from the CDC, but ... we're elevated on the sanitation side of things above and beyond what is mandated to us. We took out a lot of furniture to accommodate that. Everything is socially distanced. We will never be over capacity for what the current guidelines are."

"We're fortunate we have a big restaurant," Amy says. "We have the space to do it. We're able to space the tables. We have high ceilings, and the windows open completely. It's nice and airy in here."

In addition to the spaciouly arranged indoor seating, the outdoor patio opened recently, adding 22 seats to their already huge footprint.

"We're lucky to have that opportunity," says Clodagh, who makes a point of keeping a positive attitude for herself and the team. While she puts on a brave face, though, it's not hard to see that she and Amy both feel the weight of the situation.

"It's very difficult to talk openly about it," Clodagh says. "This is our livelihood. It's a very troubling, worrying time. We have our private moments. We have each other to lean on and that's the beauty of it."

At the heart of their coping strategy seems to be mutual admiration laced with a good-humored, loving, sibling rivalry.

"I let Clodagh do the talking," the more reserved Amy says. "Although I'm pretty sure I did teach (her) how to pour her first pint of Guinness in Galway. She won't admit it."

"Ah, I took her under my wing," Clodagh says with a wink to her younger sister. "And I will always be wiser and older." They both laugh, sharing a dash of comic relief from their current worries.

Perhaps it's not readily apparent to them, but I see they've inherited more than hospitality and a strong work ethic from their parents. They are brimming with the same grit they attribute to their mom and dad.

"When (my father) gets something in his mind, he goes, he does, he conquers," Clodagh says. "We hope we'll continue to be like that during these uncertain times."

Before I can convey my own impression that, given their can-do attitudes, their determination, and their abiding generosity, they're sure to weather this storm and any others that come along, Clodagh confirms my opinion of her fortitude.

"When we get through this awful time, I wouldn't be afraid to open another restaurant."

Dining at The Dearborn Tavern

With stately, logo-embossed pillars, The Dearborn Tavern's corner entrance is easy to spot. The revolving door, adorned with the Celtic symbol of sisterhood, leads to a bright vestibule where a welcoming host greets from a precautionary plexiglass-enclosed stand. The high ceilings and open-air walls make the restaurant bright, open, and breezy. Tables are spaced, counters are tidy, windows and floors are spotless, napkins are neatly arranged, glassware and cutlery sparkle. The single-use paper menus can be downloaded to electronic devices using a QR code. Every staff member is sprucely dressed and wearing a mask over nose and mouth. A sanitation captain wipes down high touch surfaces regularly. Guests are asked to wear masks when up and about but may remove them to socialize and eat at their tables. The servers are sharp, insightful, and offer hand sanitizer at the table while reassuring patrons of the establishment's stepped up, COVID-19-minded practices.

Patrons may dine in one of three spaces: the sunny Picasso Room, its wall of windows facing the namesake's famous statue; the airy Tavern Room, with ceiling-to-floor, open-air windows facing Randolph and, behind the long bar, a towering, dramatic display of liquor; and the dimly-lit Lawless Room, an old-school-style supper club setting reminiscent of the 1960s, so named as a "nod" to the owners' parents.

Scrumptious, must-try selections from the upscale American fare (menu changed seasonally) include the sweet, savory, and spicy "Midwest" fried chicken; the light and flaky fish and chips; the tavern-style pizza; the classic burger; the alfredo-like "Paccheri" mac and cheese; and the crispy, sweet brussels sprouts. The cocktail menu boasts The Dearborn Gin, an Irish heather/juniper berry/citrus dry blend, the result of collaboration with Northshore Distillery, as well as the signature "Daley Manhattan," a delightful mix of tang and bitters. From the one-of-a-kind non-alcoholic list, the fizzy "Crimson Mint" or "Spill the Tea" are refreshing and light. For dessert, the "Smore's Layer Cake" is a unique chocolate-lovers delight that truly evokes the campfire treat.

It's a family affair at The Dearborn and at all of the Lawless restaurants: Pictured above (L to R): Amy, John and Clodagh. This day they were doing whatever it took to make the restaurant a safe and inviting respite for their customers. photo Cathy Curry Carlson

Outdoor or indoor dining, the food, ambiance, the menu, and the Irish hospitality make the Dearborn Tavern a must visit when you are downtown and looking for a drink, some great food. and some relaxation from the hectic world we live in! photos Michael Iannitelli



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GOOD GRIEF

By JOSEPHINE COLEMAN



Hello there again! I'm sure everyone is doing their best adjusting to the new normal. Personally if I have to wear a face mask for the next five, ten years, to keep my family and everyone safe I would be ok with that. I actually was in the store the other day and a lady said "I like your mask" and I replied with "I have been making them since march for the food pantry, the homeless and the Navajo nation" and she looked at me and said "I think I have some of your masks because I'm homeless" "I just looked at her and I didn't know whether to burst into tears or open my wallet and give her some money. But she continued to tell me that Journeys helped find her a temporary place to stay and helped her find this job. She said her and her family is doing well. So I asked some of my sewing friends if we can get food vouchers together for her as she is only in part time employment. This makes me so grateful and humble for everything I have and I will continue sewing free masks as long as they are needed. I would like to thank Anna for her generous donations. She has worked tirelessly crocheting hundreds if not thousands of Ear Savers for our medical community and others who have to wear a mask all throughout their working day. Last week Our Lady of Guadalupe in Des Plaines called me to say the engraved stone I had ordered for my friend Erika who passed away suddenly in February was ready to be laid in the ground. They explained it would only be a small gathering and they would have a priest come and say some prayers and blessings over the stone and pick a spot to lay the stone. My daughter and I made memorial cards and masks with sunflowers as they were Erika favorite flowers. I called her family and friends and together one beautiful sunny morning we had a beautiful memorial service Her boys picked out a spot to lay her memorial stone under a shady tree with benches so they may come back in

the future to sit and pray. Afterwards we went to the Grotto and lit the candles the priest had blessed; we left a photo of our beloved friend there. I invited everyone back to my home for lunch. It was nice to have all our children there sharing memories growing up in the neighborhood. Our house was always full of kids as we had a trampoline and a swimming pool (still do but after 18 years my husband threatens every year to take it down but now it's turned into our physical therapy pool for our senior aching joints so hands off my pool!) I would fill an old freezer in our garage with frozen ice pops for the thirsty kids playing basketball in our driveway or hang the water hose over our gate while the kids played football in our park. Erika was always by my side laughing and joking helping me organize a back to school party with the mums and kids. She was always the first one to arrive and the last one to leave. They had so much fun filling up water balloons and soaking each other with them. Other activities were egg and spoon race .Yes I would lie and tell the kids that I boiled the eggs but they would soon find out the truth. I ruined so many of my pillow cases for the sack race but it was worth it to see how much fun they all had. Oh those wonderful days!!!After the memorial I finally took a few days off from sewing and read a book. It was recommended by my cousins in Donegal. It's called The Donegal Women by John Throne (who lived in Chicago and passed away last year). He wrote the story about his grandmother who was rented out in summer of 1910 to the local farmers. That was the way it was back then where children between the ages of ten and fourteen, sometimes even younger would spend summers working for the rich farmers. But unfortunately, for Margret, the author's grandmother, her father was

so greedy for the money he left her there for two years where she was expected to do the work of a grown man. She was continuously raped and beaten. By the time she was fourteen she was pregnant so in order to save the farmers shame the clergy and her father forced her to marry a local bachelor who was given a dowry of a few shillings and a milking cow. It is just a very sad story of the times. I won't tell you how it all ended but this poor girl also suffered at the hands of her new husband.

She did her best to protect all of her children she had over the course of her lifetime. It's a hard read but even though we are all suffering with the pandemic, I am very thankful I didn't grow up in those times. Hopefully our scientists will come up with a vaccine .It may take a while to reach us all but in the meantime stay safe abide by the states rules. There is always a light at the end of the tunnel. Dedicated to our beloved friend Erika (R.I.P)



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A Cháirde

I've mentioned a very important group before, and am happy to do so again. We owe a very big thank you to our wonderful volunteers. As soon as restrictions were barely lifted this past spring, our daily volunteers started to return. They were few in numbers at first but it wasn't long before most families gave in and allowed

the volunteers in their homes to return to their calling at Gaelic Park. Now we see many of them every week, maintaining and improving the place they love. Go raibh maith agat,

God bless

Bill O'Sullivan




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It would be easy to head into August feeling quite depressed knowing we would, any other year, be in the midst of music festival season with the grand dame, Milwaukee Irish Fest, getting ready to open its gates for us. Thanks to many musicians and fest committees, there have been lovely online opportunities for us to participate in and enjoy. **Milwaukee is offering its fest school online August 8th - 11th** with top notch instructors including Fergal Scahill, Daithi Sproule, Kevin Crawford, Joanie Madden, Shane Hennessy, and Rory Makem to mention just a few. Classes include various instruments,

dancing, history-- you name it and it's available.

The Fest at Home will be live online from the 13th - 20th. You can head to Milwaukee Irish Fest at Home to get the lineup. All concerts are free, although the fest committee has been running a donation drive to cover costs. It will be great if you can chip in!

Several new albums have recently been released, and we'll get to two of them this month. First is the lovely singer Eilis Kennedy's *So Ends the Day*. Happening upon letters, books, and logs in the New Bedford Whaling Museum telling the stories of everyday lives, traditions, dangers,



On the Upbeat

By **Maryann McTeague Keifer**

Ends This Day Eilis Kennedy



Sailor's Trade" and the despair of a young woman who finds her love has drowned, Eilis takes us on a stirring trip through the hard lives of whalers who, while passionate to be at sea, more than not, ended up poorly compensated for their hard work and perils experienced. Their women understood the draw to the sea, but lived in daily fear of hearing of the ship going down or their love's drowning.

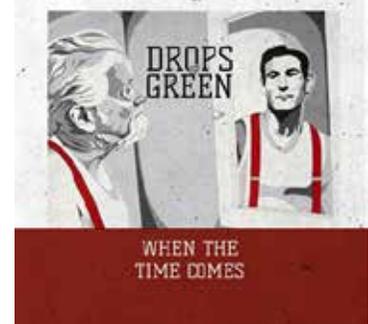
and pains of separation of whalers and their families, she was inspired to compose and perform this moving tribute to them.

Eilis has always lived on the edge of the ocean and is intimately linked to it. She was part of the album *Beal Tuinne* at St. James Church, a stunningly beautiful collection of her father's poems about fishermen put to music produced by Shaun Davey and performed by she, Seamus Bergley, Rita Connolly, Eoin Begley, Daithi O Se, and Jim Murray.

She has included a favorite of mine from this album, "Ciumhais Charraig Aonair" which personifies a rock telling of all it has witnessed from the sea. Her album *Westward* also celebrates life living on the shores of the Atlantic. She and her husband, John Benny, own a restaurant and pub on Dingle Harbour. The sea is in her blood.

From the opening song "When I Sleep" where a wife sings of her dreams and relief at receiving her fisherman husband's letters letting her know he is well to "A

In addition to her ethereal singing which floats you along as if her voice was the boat taking you on this voyage, Eilis has included detailed liner notes explaining the background of each song. *So Ends the Day* is a voyage through



the lives of these hardy men and women gifted to us by Eilis. Treat yourself to it and pour that whiskey and sit by the fireplace to take this trip.

Opening with a hearty sea song "South Australia," *Drops of Green's* much awaited album *WHEN THE TIME COMES* gets your toes tappin' and arm swinging up toasting with your Guinness. This group has expanded to five with

the addition of Robbie Campion on guitar joining brother Lee Campion on guitar, banjo, and bodhran; Ross Hennessy on lead vocals, mandolin, bodhran, and whistles; James Ring on lead vocals, bass, guitar, and whistles; and Sean Kearney on accordion, guitar, and bodhran. All are talented vocalists and their harmonies are awe-inspiring. The first time I saw them was here in Chicago several years ago. I have been in love with those harmonies ever since. They are so exceptional, that at times, the listener gets that buzz when a chord is played perfectly. Their songs are so much more interesting because of their ability to sing together with such artistry.

Back to the album, the lads have a varied and well produced collection of ten selections. After getting your toes tappin', they ease into "Beautiful Affair," a heartfelt song of hope. Their tender arrangement of "Streets of London" has many saying they now own the song. The chorus of "Home to Donegal" will have you unable to resist singing along with great relish. They have made many happy by including the popular "Bee's Wing" doing an engaging version of it. They cleverly snuck in bluegrass "Say You Love Me," and it is a winner! I have never been a fan of "McAlpines Fusilliers," but they have me enjoying it with their harmony and strength without bull shouting it. The last two songs on the album are heart wringers with "Come My Little Son" singing of telling a wee lad about his Da who is seldom around, and "On the Carousel," a poignant tale of an old man's memories and the circle of life. "The Jewels of the Ocean Set" is the only tune selection on the album. All accomplished multi instrumentalists, you'll be wanting more.

The album is outstanding and will have you hoping for our world to straighten out so that you can see them live. A favorite band of mine, *Drops of Green* are talented, special, and their album will be oft listened to in your collection.

Take care and be safe!

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Frank West



Death by the Bay

—A Dave Cubiak
Door County Mystery
By: Patricia Skalka

University of Wisconsin Press
Door County is about 200 miles north of Chicago in Wisconsin. It is so beautiful that it is often called the Riviera of the Mid-West. Door

County is blessed with magical trees and spectacular vistas of the lake and the bay. It is where the water of Lake Michigan and the bay meet.

However, there are many rocks under the water and dangerous currents. Hundreds of ships have gone down there. French-Canadian traders and sailors called it

Death's Door. The name stuck.

Patricia Skalka is the author of this intriguing mystery book. She grew up in Chicago's south-side—Hegewisch neighborhood. And her characters are very much down-to-earth persons you could meet in Chicago. Before becoming an author, she worked at Reader's Digest as a staff writer, reviewer, and editor. Now, she lives part of the year in Chicago and part in Door County. Before working at Reader's Digest, she earned a Bachelor Degree from the University of Dayton. The focus of her degree was Journalism and Communication.

Her "Door County" Mysteries are so well-written and widely read that she was elected President of the Chicagoland Chapter of Sister in Crime. Patricia Skalka's main character is a former Chicago police detective by the name of Dave Cubiak. He is only 45 years old, but grief has prematurely aged him with lines on his face and his dark hair now streaked with gray. Grief and alcohol have also done that.

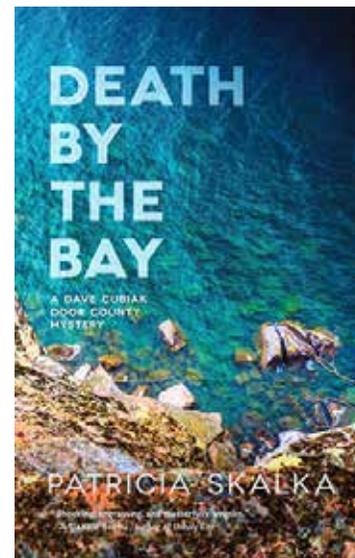
His wife and daughter were killed by a hit-and-run driver. He was so overcome with sorrow that he could not function as a policeman.

He came to Door County to find peace. He became a park ranger. However, the local sheriff was incompetent and Cubiak was asked, many times, for advice. He uses the police skills he used in Chicago. After much investigative success, he was elected sheriff.

Cubiak "had an uncanny ability to read people. He wasn't always

correct...but most of the time his initial impressions were on target."

He is in another part of the Green Arbor Lodge, but when he hears a woman scream, he goes immediately to help a man who has had a heart attack. This hap-



pened at the conference of the Institute for Progressive Medicine held at the Green Arbor Lodge convention center. The Institute for Progressive Medicine promises miracle cures to people who have no hope. It promises to "cure" people with Down Syndrome, autism, and people crippled by polio.

When Cubiak gets to the room, a doctor is performing CPR on the man on the floor. The doctor is Doctor Harlau Sage. Sage is tall with "thick hair that was more salt than pepper" and he has "murky brown eyes."

Sage pompously identifies himself as the Director of the Institute with the body of the former Direc-

tor on the floor and still warm. Not only does Cubiak find him to be arrogant and obnoxious, but he has a sixth sense feeling that Sage is hiding something. Thus, develops the major theme of the book.

Much later in his investigation, Cubiak talks with an old man who was grounds-keeper at the Insane Asylum the IPM had used. The asylum was located in the remote, northern part of Wisconsin. The old man tells of the brutal and sadistic experiments that he heard about as a boy.

"For the first time, Cubiak wondered if perhaps the dead man on the floor had been murdered and his death made to look like a heart attack. (Dr. Sage commits suicide soon after.) The doctor's experiments were decades old, but if someone had learned about his research methods, someone related to one of his victims might have decided to get even. Revenge had a long shelf life."

These quotes show how a person's emotions affect how we see nature:

--as Cubiak travels to the burned out and long abandoned insane asylum, a feeling of foreboding comes to him.

--"The forest was a world unto itself, and for twenty minutes, his jeep was the only vehicle on the road...The few homes along the route...seemed to be more threatened than sheltered by the surrounding tall pines. In the dense forest, he felt as if he were alone in the world. The last surviving man. Besides the trees, there was only a river...In several spots, the river flattened out into calm, wide pools, but in one stretch it passed through a jumble of massive boulders. The rocks peeked out above the surface, and the water foamed and protested as it pushed downstream."

--"It was twilight, and to the west, the remnants of an orange sunset stretched across the horizon. In the other direction the first star already glimmered in the charcoal sky above the lake. The sheriff liked the in-between feeling of the hour. It was an interlude that offered a place to rest between the demands of the day and the solitude of the night."

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Boyle the Kettle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

Tom Boyle



1950's.

How can we make things better in those marginalized communities? What we've

seen lately are groups of volunteers along with the city of Chicago cleaning up the neighborhoods. How do we provide economic opportunity? Maybe a Peace Corps and what about the trade unions offering apprenticeships? If you want to ease the tension when you meet a stranger on the street, simply say, "Hello, then watch the smile on their face.

Letter from Shea

Last month we printed a Letter from Mr. Steve Shea. Shea is seething with hate and he is incapable of looking at things objectively. He probably threw tantrums when he was a child. I doubt if he has ever belonged to an Irish organization. He believes in "my way or the highway." No doubt, Steve was a playground bully. He also sees himself as an intellectual, but had to use the thesaurus to come up with the word diatribe. Just as he has judged me, I have now judged him! Take a hike Stevie!

A. J. Freund

This little boy, just five years old, was

beaten to death by his mother and his father in Crystal Lake, Illinois. This little boy only weighed forty pounds. He was buried in a shallow grave in Woodstock, Illinois.

Every time I see his picture wearing his baseball cap with a wonderful smile on his face it breaks my heart.

His mother, Joann Cunningham, was sentenced to 35 years + 3 years of court supervision, with no time off the sentence for good behavior.

Too bad she didn't get life.

Covid 19

An article in the AARP bulletin spells it out. Obesity and hypertension are big problems. Being overweight makes people more vulnerable and harder to treat, and Black and Hispanic populations have higher obesity rates in general (38.4 percent of Black adults and 32.6 percent of Hispanic adults are obese compared with 28.6 percent of White adults, per the CDC).

Hypertension: High blood pressure has historically been more prevalent in African Americans - 40% of Black adults have it compared with 28 percent of White and Hispanic adults - and the condition appears to be linked to poor COVID-19 outcomes. About

57% of people hospitalized in the New York City area had hypertension.

Ireland

If Ireland was a dart board what would you aim for. My first dart would land on the Dingle Peninsula, my second dart would hit Kilkenny.

Dingle for all of its breathtaking beauty. Dingle town has wonderful pubs, restaurants, and art galleries.

Back in 1970, I took my uncle, Tom Boyle, for an outing. When we got to the beehive huts Tom spent a lot of time talking to an old woman whose family owned the land the huts are on. They spoke in Irish. Tom couldn't climb the hill to see the huts since he had been crippled since age 12. In Dingle Town we stopped at the Benner's Hotel for dinner. There were pictures of the cast of Ryan's Daughter, Robert Mitchum, Trevor Howard, Sarah Miles, Christopher Jones and John Mills in the dining room.

Our dinner was delightful. White tablecloths, soup, salad, and the entree. I don't think Uncle Tom ever dined in this kind of elegance before.

After dinner we picked up two hitchhikers, teenaged girls who wanted to go out to Sleah Head. The Basket Islands were off shore and no one has lived there since 1953. We stopped at Gallarus Oratory Chapel built completely out of stone with no mortar. We paused at the Crucifixion site further down the road. Soon we came upon Slea Head Beach. I pulled into the car park and the girls went down to the beach. Moira was from Toledo, Ohio. She had freckles and long reddish-brown hair. Both were very good looking, but Moira's raven-haired cousin from Belfast took first place! Uncle Tom had stretched out on top of a stone wall, just lying there and enjoying the warm sun for a while. When I said, "let's move on," Tom said, "Wouldn't you be content just to stay here?" I said, "I'll stay here just as long as you want me too!" Kilkenny next month!

Columbus Statue

Chicago, July 17, 1,000 protesters stormed the statue of Columbus in an attempt to topple it, calling him a "murderer and a thief."

The police were defending the statue and had fireworks and other incendiary devices thrown at them, along with rocks and frozen bottles. Outnumbered the police saved the statue, but 18 policemen were sent to the hospital.

Let's find out who planned this and lock them up, meanwhile the ACLU is claiming the police used excessive force.

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- US Civics Questions Review
- Reading & Writing Preparation
- Citizenship Eligibility & Process Overview
- Study Materials Available

Class Details

- Classes will take place via Zoom at the following dates & times:
Tuesday, September 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th
6:00 PM - 7.30 PM
- 4 classes of 1.5 hours
 - Classes are FREE. Fees apply for optional study material only.
 - Limit 15 people per class

It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane



Hello everybody,

I hope you're all keeping well. It seems like a lifetime since I flew over to Ireland, for my brother's funeral. I left Chicago on February 18 and I've been here ever since. I feel very lucky that my son Declan joined me a few weeks back. He's always able to put a smile on his dad's face. I don't believe I've ever not been performing for such a long period of time. So to help pass the time, I've been doing about 4 hours a day practicing. They say practice makes perfect, so boy! If that's right, I should be getting pretty good by now. My next gig is August 21, at Chicago Gaelic Park. I'm going to keep my column short this time, I will catch up with the news next month for sure, but as always I have a song to share with you. I was very honored last month, when Nathan Carter, and John Farry asked me to join them in writing last month's song. It's a song Nathan wanted to write as a tribute to my brother. They were so close. Nathan, will be recording it soon. Also thank you so much for the wonderful write up you did last month, Nathan, it was very appreciated.

Lately I was sitting on my own in the home place in Silverbridge, and I started to feel lonesome, as I have a lot since My brother left us. So, I started to write about how I was feeling, then I picked up my guitar and another song about Nick was born. Since then, I've recorded the song at Stephen Smyth's recording studios, in Portaferry. Stephen, a great musician, played every instrument on the track. He was also a dear friend of Nick's. I'll make it the song for this month. It's called 'A Little Healing'

As always, be good to one another, stay safe, and I look forward to seeing you in August. *Best wishes, Joe*

'A Little Healing'

© Written by Joe McShane Key C

Verse 1

Dreams of starry nights and yesterday
And some old friends we lost along the way
So many storms we've been through
But there's nothing in this world, compares to losing you

Chorus

Sometimes I reach out for the phone
Then I realize you're gone
If you know from where you are tonight how I'm feeling
Send me down a prayer so I can do a little healing

Verse

If I could only see you one more time
To let you know how much you're on my mind
I hope before you left me here you knew
You were such a part of me, now my sky is not so blue

Chorus

Sometimes I reach out for the phone
Then I realize you're gone
If you know from where you are tonight how I'm feeling
Send me down a prayer so I can do a little healing

Instrumental Key change C#

Chorus

Sometimes I reach out for the phone
Then I realize you're gone
If you know from where you are tonight how I'm feeling
Send me down a prayer so I can do a little healing

Tag

Send me down a prayer, to help me through my grieving

What if nurses decided they do not want to wear a mask to work? How do you think that would go? What if your doctor decided he or she would wear a mask but would not pull it over his or her nose? Or not wear eye protection for that matter? You probably would not go to that doctor, right? Why...because he or she is putting your life in danger by not following the rules put in place for public safety. Rules are made for the safety of all lives.

In case anyone forgot, we are in the era of the Baby Boomer generation. I want you to stop what you are doing just for one moment and think about what I am about to say. So many of us have been able to get out of the house, having been on house arrest for months. Many of us have been able to interact once again, practicing social distancing. Many of the younger generations think this is over and have resumed their normal social lives, minus the wearing of the masks. Many have gone back to the pool parties and the beaches. And the numbers begin to rise again post America's birthday, July 4th. What part of this are we not understanding? You can be around people who have it and not even know they have it, because the symptoms don't surface until 14 days after they were around someone else who had it. Hence, causing the domino effect. It truly does not matter if they are friends or colleagues. Who have they been around when not around you? What about all the seniors that have not had any family interactions in months? Imagine being confined to a room in a nursing facility for five months without visitors from the outside or any family members? These are the people we need to think about as we move about the community maskless and careless! These are the people we are hurting because their lives can't be risked or jeopardized. They are the gems of our society; the likes of which we will never see again.

These are the folks who fought for our freedom. The men and women who served this country so we could all remain safe. The men and women who worked two to three jobs to feed their families to get ahead. The men and women whose handshakes were their bonds. These are the men and women who were honest, integrous, and proud citizens of this country. The women who had dinner on the table for their families each night of the week. The men and women who sacrificed so much so that their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren would not have to endure the hardships they had.

All of us need to be accountable here. We all have a part to play. Be accountable for yourself. It is up to each and every one of us to do our part to keep ourselves, our families, our relatives, our colleagues, and our communities safe. What can you do and what will you do to step-up? The true heroes are the seniors stuck inside, fighting a war they don't even understand. www.aishlingcare.com

CallyAnna Hopes to Play for Audiences in Chicago

CallyAnna is a singer/songwriter originally from Mullanny, in Co. Mayo. She started writing songs in 2009 and released her debut album "Lost At Sea" in 2018. Her second album was recorded in Woodstock, New York in May 2019 with three songs selected for the Hollywood music bank for potential movie placement.

In July 2019 CallyAnna won a prestigious song writing competition held in celebration of 150 years of The Galway Races. She performed her winning song on opening day of the races in 2019 and her song was featured on national and international radio and TV.

CallyAnna is a singer/songwriter from Co. Mayo in the West of Ireland.

She been singing and writing songs for 10 years, and her passion in truth! She has had a bumpy road in getting to this point, as life hasn't necessarily been a walk in the park, but she is grateful for her journey as it has made her a successful songwriter.

She was fortunate enough to open a show for Professor Louie & The Cromatix at the Prestigious "Colony" venue in Woodstock while she was there recording.

She was totally blown away by responses to her performances while there. The American audiences were generous in spirit and so wonderfully appreciative of the music that CallyAnna is genuinely eager to get back to perform in the States again. She realizes that right now is a difficult time as none of us know what's happening regarding Covid-19 situation.

CallyAnna is working now on creating post Covid opportunities and Chicago is on her list of places she would love to perform. CallyAnna's good friend and a group of her amateur drama group from Westport Drama Society, travelled to Chicago in February 2020, to perform "The Beauty Queen Of Lenane," and their reception in Chicago has moved Chicago up the list where CallyAnna would like to perform! Martin Hughes Recommended . . .

<https://callyanna.com>



Home is Where the Heart Is

By Aishling Kelly



Step Up And Step Out!

As we advance through the many challenges of Covid-19, everyone all across the world is having to reinvent themselves and find new ways of doing things they were once used to doing. Many of us are having to work from home, learning new technologies in order to be successful and do our jobs, and sadly to help keep our jobs. America right now is simply lost. We are in uncertain times and as a result, our leaders from the bottom up and from the top down are not agreeing. Some say, "Wear masks in public", while others say, "You don't have to". One governor makes it mandatory to wear masks outside in all public areas while in another state the governor does not mandate wearing masks in public. Many folks wear the mask to completely cover their faces; others wear them under their noses. Some wear eye protection; others do not. Why is everyone so misinformed? Are we all not watching the same pandemic unfold? Is it not up to each individual to be completely responsible when around others in public?

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McCann's Irish Oatmeal Fortifies Chicago Firefighters

By Mike Houlihan

Last St. Patrick's Day will live in our memories as perhaps the most devastating blow to our Irish American psyche. The parades were all cancelled, as well as the parties, and a global pandemic had arrived to take the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of thousands. The Irish music and songs were silenced, but only temporarily, as innovative Irish musicians took to the internet and social media to entertain the world. In the midst of this misery we lost our home for Hibernian Radio. We'd been broadcasting for over ten years from Lizzie McNeill's Irish Pub, but all pubs were now closed.

Fortunately, we had a treasure trove of past interviews with Irish First Responders, so we could go to the vault and build new shows around that for many weeks. Some of our sponsors left the show or went un-

of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. He gets it, and he delivered when we talked about firefighters working overnight shifts and cooking for each other every morning, noon, and night in the firehouses of Chicago. He shipped several cases out to us for the firefighters and we had the pleasure of delivering the "whole grain goodness" of McCann's Steel Cut Irish Oatmeal a couple weeks ago.

We met with International Association of Firefighters Local 2 Public Relations Manager, and old friend of our show, Pat Quane, early one morning in June and handed over the oatmeal. He was happy to get it and told me, "The jobs of Firefighters and Paramedics are both mentally and physically demanding. To maintain this high level of performance it is important for our members to have a healthy and balanced diet. The Chicago Firefighters Union salutes McCann's Irish Oatmeal for their support of Chicago Firefighters and Paramedics and their generous donation to ensure our members start their day the right way."



der due to this Corona catastrophe. I'm not too proud to admit we were worried. Would this madness never end? We needed fortitude, and not the kind that comes in a bottle.

Actually, we needed the kind that comes in a can! And our friends at McCann's Irish Oatmeal, long time sponsors of our Irish radio programs, delivered. The folks at McCann's never wavered in their allegiance to the Irish American community. They continue to sponsor our shows and were so impressed with our focus on Irish First Responders that they donated a shipment of their product to be delivered to our friends at the Chicago Fire Department.

Ron Young, our Brand Manager for McCann's Irish Oatmeal, is an east coast guy whose dad used to take him to meetings

That oatmeal also had a fortuitous effect on our future for Hibernian Radio as we called an audible and started bringing our show to a variety of Irish pubs across town as we proclaimed our "Police Pub Tour" to continue to honor our Irish First Responders. We've already broadcast from Cork & Kerry at the Park, Cork & Kerry in Beverly, The Celtic Boxing Club, The Curragh Irish Pub in Edison Park and in August we'll be at The Emerald Isle on Northwest Highway, Wednesday, August 5th and 12th. We plan on keeping the tour going across Chicagoland all summer to celebrate the "fortitude" of our Irish cops, firefighters, and paramedics. Hope to see you on the circuit and thanks to McCann's Irish Oatmeal and all our sponsors and God bless our Irish First Responders.



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Presidential Proclamation: Suspending Nonimmigrant Work Visas

Effective 24 June 2020 at 12:01am EST

Suspends issuance of certain non-immigrant work visas to individuals who:

- Are outside the U.S. on 24 June 2020
- Do NOT possess a valid nonimmigrant visa on 24 June 2020
- Do NOT possess a valid, official travel document (ie advanced parole, boarding foil or transportation letter) on 24 June 2020 or issued thereafter

Applies to

- H-1B (specialty occupation)
- H-2B (seasonal, non-agricultural)
- J-1 (interns, trainees, teachers, camp counselors, au pairs and Summer Work & Travel)
- L-1A & L-1B (Intracompany transfers)

Exemptions

- Current nonimmigrant visa holders and/or those in the U.S. as of 24 June 2020
- Current LPRs/Green Card Holders
- Spouses & minor children of USC's
- Essential U.S. food supply chain temp workers
- Individuals designated as serving the national interest by DCS, DHS or DOL, ie:
 - National security/defense, COVID-19 medical care/research, economic recovery

Also affects dependents following/joining individuals in the above visa classifications (eg H-4)

Consular officer has discretion to determine exemptions



Online U.S. Citizenship Classes- September 2020

Irish Community Services is offering FREE classes to help you through the U.S. Citizenship process.

What You'll Learn

- N-400 (Citizenship Application) Review
- Citizenship Interview Preparation & Practice
- US Civics Questions Review
- Reading & Writing Preparation
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- Study Materials Available

Class Details

- Classes will take place via Zoom at the following dates & times:
Tuesday, September 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
- 4 classes of 1.5 hours
 - Classes are FREE. Fees apply for optional study material only.
 - Limit 15 people per class

To Register Please Visit: <https://bit.ly/2UMWFHU>
Or contact us at 312-973-9034 or info@irishchicago.org

NEW Americans INITIATIVE



IMMIGRATION LEGAL CLINICS



Irish Community Services offers FREE 30 minute consultations with an immigration attorney. Clinics are by appointment only.

Summer 2020 Clinic Schedule:

Wednesday, August 12th

3:30-6:30pm

Hosted by the McEntee Law Group

Wednesday, August 26th

3:30-6:30pm

Hosted by the McEntee Law Group



312-973-9034



DUE TO THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19, ALL CONSULTATIONS WILL BE HELD REMOTELY UNLESS OTHERWISE REQUESTED.

THINGS TO DO AT HOME



Check out our Youtube channel for a weekly STORY TIME!!
www.youtube.com
Search and subscribe to our channel
"Irish Community Services"



Applicants who submitted an entry under the Diversity Visa 2021 green card lottery (DV-2021) can begin to check the status of their application online starting on Saturday, June 6, 2020, at noon (EDT). The DV-2021 entry period opened on October 2, 2019, and closed on November 5, 2019. Only confirmation information for entries submitted during this period are valid for checking your status.

All DV-2021 applicants must check their status online, and will not receive a notification letter or e-mail from the U.S. government. Diversity Visa Entry Status Check will only be provided through the Department of State secure online site. Until September 30, 2021, entrants are able to check the status of their entry through the E-DV website at <http://dvlottery.state.gov/ESC>.

The Irish Memory Box

The Irish Memory Box is an intergenerational podcast that captures the memories of the Irish Community. It is a way for the youth in our community to connect with the elders. It is a place to immortalize real Irish stories. With this podcast generations to come will be able to learn from the Irish who lived before them.

You can find the Irish Memory box where you find the rest of your podcasts, or simply by searching for it on google.

ICS is committed to capturing as many Irish Memories as possible. If you or your loved one would like to be involved email grace@irishchicago.org

ICS is here to Serve Empower and Connect the Irish Community.

What is your earliest memory?

ICS Intergenerational podcast.

The Irish Memory box

What games did you play?



How was it growing up Irish in America?

MEMORIES



Irish Abroad Online Counselling Service

FREE Appointments 7 Days a Week

What is Helplink

Helplink is an Ireland-based charity providing mental health support services. It offers online counseling to Irish people overseas through its Irish Abroad Counselling Service

Who can avail of the Irish Abroad Counseling Service?

Our service is available for all Irish passport holders living abroad in need of emotional support from trained counselors. Each person can avail of **6 free online appointments**. Appointments are available 7 days a week.

What kinds of issues can we help with?

Our Counselors have already been helping the Irish abroad for many years with various mental health issues such as

depression, sadness, difficulties adjusting to life changes such as bereavement or the ending of a relationship, eating issues, self-esteem challenges, and addiction.

How does online counseling work?

If you are eligible, please send us an email at helplinksupport@helplink.ie with the words 'Irish Abroad' in the subject line and your location in the main body of the email. Our administration staff will then ask you a couple of questions and offer potential appointment times if you are a suitable client for our services. All online appointments are facilitated through a video platform called VSee. To participate in counseling sessions, you will need to create an free account with VSee. Once you book your first counselling appointment, you will be provided with a thorough guide for instal-

ling and using VSee. We provide online counselling appointments 7 days a week (closed Irish bank holidays and Christmas /New Years Eve). We provide appointments at the following local times (CST):

Monday to Friday – 3 am to 3 pm
Saturday Sunday – 6 am to 12 pm

PLEASE NOTE

Helplink's Irish Abroad Online Counseling Service is **NOT** a crisis service. If you or someone you know is seriously contemplating suicide or in need of immediate help you/they should call 911.

Access to the internet and a computer is required. if you are interested in counseling but DO NOT have access to the internet or a computer, please contact Irish Community Service to make arrangements to use their equipment: 773-282-8445.

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IRISH REBELLION, MAY 1916.



COUNTESS MARKIEVICZ, (Who took a prominent part in the Rebellion, Stephen's Green Area), Sentenced to Death;



Eamon De Valera.



GENERAL MICHAEL COLLINS, T.D., Commander-in-Chief National Army, Killed in Ambush, Co. Cork, 22nd August, 1922.

Wanted: Irish Postcards From the Decade of 1913 through 1923

Conor A. Dullaghan, Ph.D. is embarking on a project to catalog as many Irish postcards from the decade 1913-1923. This was an tumultuous time in Irish history, with key events such as the Howth gun running, Home Rule, Irish Volunteers, Easter Rising, War of Independence and last, but by no

means least, Irish Civil War.

Postcards from that period offer an amazing insight in to the period, whether it be the excited faces of young Fianna Éireann lads (Nationalist boy scouts) assisting in the landing of weapons at Howth, through the scenes of destruction in Dublin

post rebellion, to portraits of some key participants such as Michel Collins, Eamon de Valera, Madame Markievicz, etc.

In conjunction with another major US collector of postcards of the period, I am asking for anyone with cards from that period to reach out via email to 1916Irish-

Collector@gmail.com or via phone/text to (740)418-4134. Images, front and back of the card, should be of a high quality (ideally greater than 1MB). Purchase of some of the cards too could be discussed.

Conor A. Dullaghan, Ph.D.

1916IrishCollector@gmail.com

and Conor can be found on Facebook



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Dennis Day

The Irish have always been known for their Irish Tenors. Every generation has their favorites. If you were raised in an Irish-American family in the 1940's-1960's, it would have been Dennis Day. Dennis Day was born as Eugene Dennis McNulty on May 21, 1918. He was one of six children born to Patrick and Mary McNulty and he grew up in the Bronx, in New York. His brother, James McNulty, would later marry Hollywood actress Ann Blyth.

That Dennis Day was born with a wondrous voice came to light when he was a boy. His talent was noted at Sunday school, where he sang. Later, he joined the great choir at New York's famed St. Patrick's Cathedral. However, Dennis was so extremely modest about his talent, his mother actually had to push him on-stage to sing at the many church socials and charity benefit shows the boy had volunteered to help. There was always a pleasant air of modesty around him.

Before he was scheduled to enter law school, Dennis recorded some songs to pass the time. One of these recordings was sent to Mary Livingstone, who, at the time, was hunting for a tenor for The Jack Benny Show.

In 1939 Dennis received his big break when he was asked to appear on the Jack Benny radio show as a re-



placement for Kenny Baker. This was a singer's dream come true... to be chosen for a most important coast-to-coast show, then become a star overnight! The association of Benny and Day became an enduring and lasting one, from the early days of the radio series and on into Benny's television program. During World War II he sang with the Claude Thornhill Orchestra while in the navy in the Pacific.

It was not only Dennis Day's pleasing singing voice, but his gift for comedy which made him a favorite on the show and endeared him to a generation. Benny encouraged the development of Dennis' character in his radio series, that of "the dumb kid," always naïve and underpaid by Benny. A typical sketch would end with Benny saying "That kid drives me nuts." The usual response a humble, "Yes Mr. Benny." Each show included a selection sung by Dennis, usually a popular song, show tune or an Irish ballad.

On Dennis Days' album Shillelaghs and Shamrocks! Jack Benny writes with his usual humor on the back "...When I grew up and got my radio show, I hired the best tenors I could find. For some reason they always turned out to be Irish. In the years that have passed I went through six of them. Actually there was a seventh, but he turned out to be Polish. He was taken care of by the Beverly Hills chapter of the IRA. ...Dennis was the last to come along. He was a young man, fresh out of the

Manhattan College Glee Club, and eager to sing. He cared only for singing. He was even willing to sing for free. I find this characteristic admirable in a man so I gladly accommodated him. I continued to accommodate him until he got an agent."

The career of Dennis Day moved swiftly after his success on the Jack Benny show. It expanded into his own radio show, then the television program "A Day in the Life of Dennis Day." He made numerous appearances on The Lucy Show and The Kraft Music Hall. His TV shows included guest spots on the Ed Sullivan Show, The Hollywood Palace, Alfred Hitchcock Presents, Studio One, The George Gobel Show and Love, American Style. He also did numerous animated voice-overs in The Stingiest Man in Town, Frosty's Winter Wonderland and The New Adventures of Huck Finn.

From 1947 to 1951 Dennis entered the Top 40 music charts seven times. His highest mark was #8 with Mam'selle in 1947. His Irish hit Clancy Lowered the Boom reached #23 in March 1949. Dennis Day was a guest at the Shamrock Club of Milwaukee's St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance in the 1960's and he appeared at Milwaukee Irish Fest several times. In 1948 Dennis married and with his wife, Peggy, they raised 9 children. He died on June 22, 1988 of Lou Gehrig's Disease.

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AUGUST 2020

CELTIC

AN IRISH JOURNAL FOR SENIORS



WELCOME

As difficult as it was to accept, we recently had to surrender to the fact our senior group meetings would not be returning in the foreseeable future. But, try as you might, you won't keep us down for long! We've arranged a series of live phone-in concerts for you to

enjoy from home. Take a look below to see how you can get in on the action. In this month's *Celtic Magazine*, we share a delicious recipe for Cold Tea Bread and a brand new batch of the puzzles and games you've enjoyed over the first two months of our publication. In our most recent *Front Porch Pro-files*, you will meet Judy

McKeever, who has been a great supporter of the Irish community during her short time living and working in Chicago. As usual, Ambassador Mulhall has selected an Irish poem for us, this one by the great Patrick Kavanagh. Please enjoy our August issue!

Paul Dowling

Top TV



It's too hot to be out-and-about and there's no better way to beat the heat than spending the afternoon in front of the TV in a cool, dark room. Here's our suggestions to keep you entertained while you're keeping cool!



Lady Bird - starring Irish actor, Saoirse Ronan - is a charming film full of striking performances that tells the story of an off-beat teenager's coming-of-age angst. The moments of searing dialogue between our two protagonists in the scintillating **The Two Popes** will keep you riveted. Both movie are available now on Netflix.

PHONE-IN SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Social Distancing Never Sounded So Good!

Irish Community Services is working to keep you connected while you're social distancing. Our **Dial-in Summer Concert Series** let's you enjoy live Irish music from your own home!

There are two ways to join the fun - listen in using your phone or, if you have access to a computer, join us via the internet and see all the action - instructions are listed below.

If you have question, please call **Paul Dowling** on **312-371-0937**.

**Wednesday 5th
August @ 10 AM**

**Wednesday 2nd
September @ 10 AM**

Join in Online

Go to the our website
www.irishchicago.org

Click the green button

'Click here to join the concert'

You will then be joined into the concert!

Dial in by phone

Call **312 626 6799**

enter meeting ID and press #

Meeting ID - 884 0991 8529

You will then be asked to enter a participant ID or to press # to continue. Just press # and you will be joined in to the concert.

Front Porch Profiles

You arrived to Chicago about two years ago. What brought you our great city?

My job. After working for an educational travel company as a freelancer for ten years, they offered me a full time position at their headquarters in Chicago.

Returning to Ireland right now was not your plan. Why the sudden move?

I was laid off due to Covid-19. I am on an L1 visa, which is tied in with my company, so I couldn't stay.

What will you remember most about your time spent living in the Midwest?

The people - so friendly and welcoming. I made great friends. I loved living close to the lake and Lincoln Park.

What will you miss most about Chicago and the Irish community you were so involved with here?

The friends I made through the Ireland Network - their support and community spirit, the fun we had at monthly socials, fascinating talks, charity runs and the annual ball at The Drake. Fun nights of music and theater at the Irish Heritage Center. I will also miss my swim team (Swedish Fish) - weekends away at swim events, post training chats in the hot tub and taco nights. My lovely neighbors - evening cocktails on the balcony and long discussions about life. I will miss dining outdoors in the balmy Chicago summer evenings, the brilliant theater scene, incredible architecture, street festivals, art museum, diversity and so much more I had yet to discover. I'll miss discovering the city neighborhoods on my cycle adventures; . I LOVE the Divvy rental bikes! With a Divvy station out front of my building, I used them a lot as my mode of transport. No need a car thanks to the Divvys!!

What's the best bit of being back home in Ireland?

Being with my family and friends. The beauty of Ireland. I spent my 14 day self isolation period in the west doing walks at the Cliffs of Moher and swims in Lahinch - pure heaven on earth. I

After a relatively short stay in Chicago and a rather abrupt departure, Dubliner Judy McKeever landed back in Ireland last month to face the daunting task of settling back in to life on the Emerald Isle. During her time here, Judy was an energetic committee member of the Ireland Network and a wonderful volunteer with Irish Community Services.



have holiday plans in Donegal and Cork, can't wait!

So, how has it been moving back home to Ireland?

Settling back has been easy so far, because of amazing friends and family and sea swims every day (calming and invigorating). The 'hard part may come when I start seriously looking for work. For now, I am busy sorting out loose ends in Chicago and catching up with friends.

Judy might have left our city but she'll be staying connected with Chicago's Irish community. She has a wealth of experience on the stage and has agreed to film some fun videos for the Irish Community Services' YouTube channel, and Judy will also be 'attending' our next Phone-in concert happening on Wednesday 5th August at 10 am (turn back one page to learn how you can be 'there' too).

CARTOON CAPTION COMPETITION

The Irish are well known for their sharp sense of humor and we're giving you an opportunity to show why! Each month, we provide a cartoon and ask you to give it a caption. Send us your entries by mail or email before the 15th of the month to be considered for the competition. We'll announce the winner in next month's *Celtic*.

Irish Community Services
4626 N Knox Ave #301
Chicago, IL 60630
Info@irishchicago.org



The Celtic Kitchen

May's Cold Tea Breac (Brack)

For many years now, this two-day, fruity breac has been a favorite of our friend May Brosnan. Using cold tea and a cooked apple to add depth and interest to the favors, this is no ordinary fruit bread. May recommends serving this with a generous helping of Irish butter, and if you have a little jam, that will work very well too! Do you have a recipe you'd like to share? Call us on 312-371-0937 or email info@irishchicago.org!

Ingredients

- 1 cup cold tea
- 1 cup raisins
- 1 Cup sultanas or golden raisins
- 1 Cup mixed peel
- 1 cup of brown sugar
- 1 apple – cooked and chopped (to cook, peel and simmer or 5-8 mins)
- 2 cups flour
- 1tsp salt
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tbs baking powder
- 1 tsp nutmeg
- 1 tsp all spice
- ¼ cup chopped walnuts
- ½ cup butter, melted
- 1 egg, beaten

Directions

1. Combine the tea, raisins, golden raisins, mix peel and brown sugar in a bowl and refrigerate overnight.
2. The next day, preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour an 8-inch cake tin.
3. Combine the flour, salt, baking powder, baking soda, nutmeg, all spice, and nuts, and mix.
4. Stir in the melted butter and beaten egg. Add the cold tea mixture and stir until just combined. Add to the prepared cake tin.
5. Bake for 60-90 minutes, checking often.

Comedy Club



Where do ghosts like to go on vacation?
Lake Eerie!

Why did Maggie go outside with her purse open?
Because she expected some change in the weather!

Why do nurses need to have red pens for work?

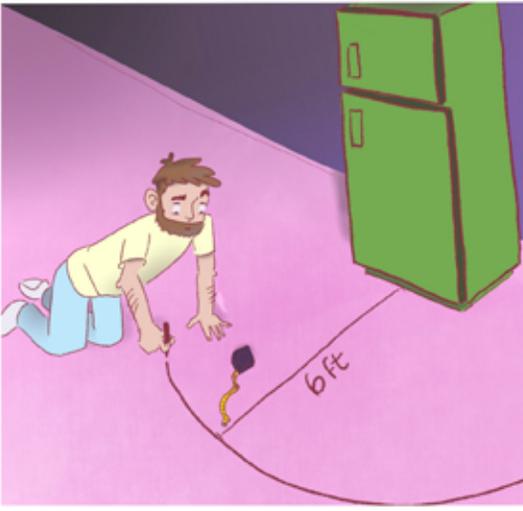
In case they need to draw blood!

What do you call an apology written in dots and dashes?

A re-morse code!

For more laughs, head over to the the Irish Community Services Online Comedy Club. Visit www.youtube.com and search for 'Irish Community Services'.

This Month's Cartoon



Last Month's Cartoon



Winning Caption

'99 bottles of beer on the wall,
99 bottles of beer.... sigh'

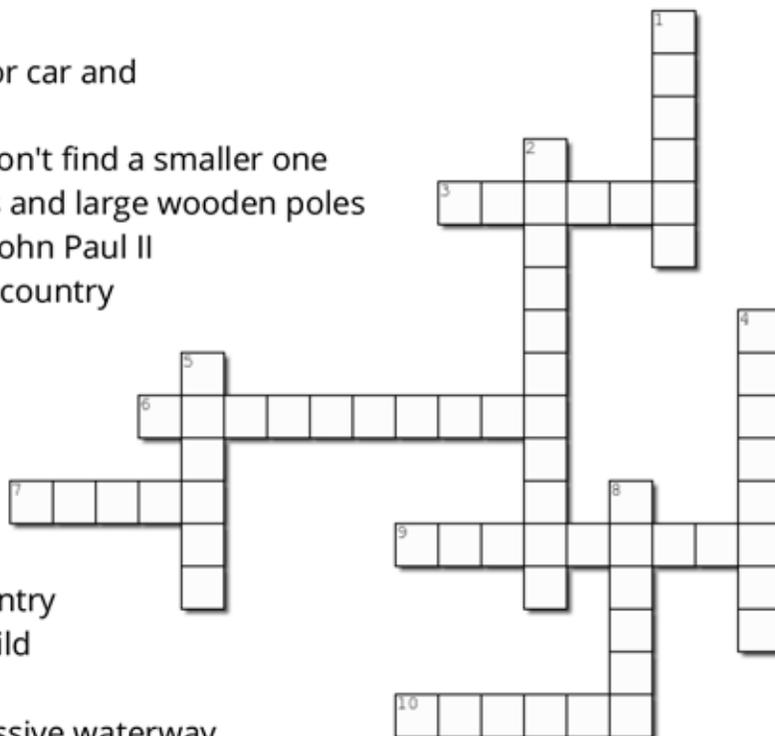
Think it Over

Down

- Home of the volvo motor car and flat-pack furniture
- You can look, but you won't find a smaller one
- Where they fling dances and large wooden poles
- Home country of Pope John Paul II
- Talk 'a-boot' a beautiful country

Across

- Where they speak the language of love
- The World's youngest country
- 2nd most populous country
- Where they sent 'The Wild Colonial Boy'
- Hats off to their impressive waterway



Where in The World

Y	G	E	F	V	J	A	P	A	N
W	V	U	D	R	N	M	U	S	A
C	H	I	N	A	C	P	P	F	N
C	F	L	Q	N	O	R	W	A	Y
B	A	R	G	E	N	T	I	N	A
R	U	R	I	R	E	L	A	N	D
N	R	C	M	E	X	I	C	O	V
H	C	A	M	E	R	O	O	N	I
P	G	M	G	E	R	M	A	N	Y

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THE AMBASSADOR'S POEM PICK

'Patrick Kavanagh may well be Ireland's best-loved poet. His poems with their rural setting strike a chord with many Irish people and they have been a staple of Irish High School English literature courses for a great many years. I bought my edition of Kavanagh's Collected Poems in 1974 and I still dip into it quite frequently.

Poems like 'Memory of my Father' ("Every old man I see/Reminds me of my father") and 'In Memory of my Mother' ("Among your earthiest words the angels stray") are firm favorites with lots of Irish readers. I have chosen a short poem, 'Epic', in which the poet compares the disputes that could arise in his locality about the ownership of land with the great events in the world such as "the Munich bother." This refers to the Munich Agreement of 1938 when Britain and Germany

reached a short-lived agreement but were at war within a year. Kavanagh, who was rooted in his home place in County Monaghan, even though he lived much of his life in Dublin, confesses that he was inclined to lose faith in the significance of what was happening around him in rural Monaghan, but then the ghost of the classical Greek writer, Homer, reminded him that he made his great epic, the Iliad, "from such a local row." As Kavanagh puts it, "Gods make their own importance". In other words, we ought to be proud of the place where we live, however modest it might appear to be.



Dan Mulhall
Ambassador

Epic

by Patrick Kavanagh

I have lived in important places, times
When great events were decided: who owned
That half a rood of rock, a no-man's land
Surrounded by our pitchfork-armed claims.
I heard the Duffys shouting "Damn your soul"
And old McCabe stripped to the waist, seen
Step the plot defying blue cast-steel -
"Here is the march along these iron stones."
That was the year of the Munich bother. Which
Was most important? I inclined
To lose my faith in Ballyrush and Gortin
Till Homer's ghost came whispering to my mind.
He said: I made the Iliad from such
A local row. Gods make their own importance.

County Will Irish

By Tim Brophy

I'm far from an expert at Will County history. But these words from Will County are long overdue in the pages of the IAN. A short history of the Irish in Will County is impossible as our story and membership runs too deep to abbreviate. So here I will simply share some information about the last four decades of a group of Irish-Americans and their desire to promote the contributions of the Irish in our part of America.

The Irish American Society of County Will (IASCW) was founded by fifteen friends in 1981. My father, Robert Emmett Brophy, Jr., served as the first President. Fr. Kevin Shanley, O'Carroll, well known to the older readers of these pages, served as Chairman of the Board. The group met in the basement of the Joliet home of William J. Ferguson to establish the IASCW. Ferguson was joined by fellow directors James J. O'Connell, Patrick Malloy, Robert J. Blackburn, Jim Albritton, and Mike Reilly. Brophy and Shanley were joined by fellow officers Jack Schaller, Daniel Malloy, Dennis Ockerman, Mike Dowd, Tom Ward, Ray Slattery, C.P.A., and Mike McHugh of Manhattan who served as membership chairman from 1981 until his death in 2017.

The IASCW was not the first attempt at a Joliet/Will Irish-American organization, but it was the first time it was done right—by adding purpose, mission, structure, and wider membership to what in the past were simply efforts at opening a clubhouse/pub. The original Statement of Purpose agreed on was: to promote Irish culture in America and to preserve Irish-American heritage; to promote education, friendship, understanding, and cooperation among members and the community; and to promote and cooperate in the general welfare work in the community.

The IASCW has never had a home—a center, building, clubhouse or office. It was, however, stated in the original organization declaration, that the "Society plans to enlarge itself to become a center, not only for individuals, but also for families." The founders intended to "obtain a permanent structure to house its activities." And so my father set out to find such a site. I remember accompanying him on many of these searches. We looked at every possibility—vacant land, failing taverns, small banquet halls. At one point a contract was prepared for the purchase of a neighborhood private club, but the IASCW board hesitated and the deal was

lost to another buyer.

Dad died suddenly in 1986 and if felt like the real push for a clubhouse died with him. Others carried on that dream. The IASCW went as far as to dedicate one third of certain fund raising revenues toward a "building fund." But the feasibility of establishing a center eluded the group as the years passed. Gaelic Park in Oak Forest is a shining example of what a group can do when they work together. But a project like that out here in Will county looks like less and less of a possibility for reasons explained later.

The original annual membership fee to join the IASCW was \$25 per individual and \$35 for a family, and those amounts have NEVER changed! Membership grew to 200 or so at its peak. But without a center, a gathering magnet for members and prospective members, the paid membership numbers never reached much higher. But, true to the mission, the IASCW has been wildly successful in educating and preserving Irish culture through scholarship, service and charity.

Thanks greatly to the leadership of Kevin Shanley, significant focus and investment was made into the scholarship fund. In 1983 the group began summer exchange/study scholarships to Ireland. Both an adult and a student program were supported. The IASCW began a partnership with the Irish Way Program, and later through the Irish Life Experience, sending high school students to Ireland for these 4-5 week visits. To date, 51 have received scholarship funds for the program. Two students were selected to go this year but due to pandemic-related restrictions the program was suspended. Toward the program tuition of \$5,100, the IASCW awards scholarship funds of \$3,000. In the past several years, the IASCW has sent two students each Summer.

I presently serve as the appointed Executive Director of the IASCW however this title is a first for our organization. Until last year, the elected officers directed

the affairs of the IASCW. I served a term as President in the mid 1990's, and also a couple terms in the past 10 years. At the end of my last term in November of 2019 when it became evident that the organization required more formality and consistency in leadership and management, the board created the Executive Director position. The intention is that volunteer officers may serve without the burden of day-to-day management but instead focus on mission and purpose.

The volunteer management of any organization is challenging. The IASCW is no different. For the large salary of one dollar per year I hope to provide some stability and consistency to the required operations of the IASCW. Leadership, direction, and activities will hopefully continue to emanate from the officers, directors and members. My concern is, and always has been, that maintaining the interest and energy in our stated purpose is more difficult as the generations pass. My guestimate is that the Irish of Chicago and Gaelic Park tend to include more recent arrivals from Ireland. Of course there are certainly families with long U.S. histories among the

Gaelic Park membership. But in general, the Irish-Americans here in County Will are more generations removed from Ireland. And in many families, this great melting pot that is America has slowly combined and merged various heritages.

Being the fifth generation of my Brophy family in America, I don't know the emigration details of my great-great grandfather, Edward Brophy. Only an 1851 advertisement in the local Joliet newspaper provides a clue to his Irish roots. He was looking for "any information to the whereabouts of my brother James Brophy of Kilkenny, Ireland." I have been fortunate enough to find my mother's family in Calverstown, Kildare. A couple years ago I knocked on the door of my 4th cousin, Fergal Byrne. He and his wife Fiona invited us in for dinner in the home he built on the family farm where they've been for hundreds of years. Fergal introduced me to his father, Seamus, my mother's 3rd cousin.

My opinion is that the dilution of heritage that occurs over time contributes to the difficulty in coalescing a significant number of members with like goals and needs required to support a larger organization and the assets they would generate, like a clubhouse, park or center. We have assimilated, we have inter-married, we are farther removed from our Irish roots. But many of us still care.

And so, we will carry on, in our small way improving the lives of those around us, stirring the hearts of young high schoolers with an exchange opportunities, and celebrating our heritage with our friends. Those celebrations and events are noted here in our IAN page. Hope to meet you at one of those again soon!

Tim Brophy
tmb777@aol.com
Timothy M. Brophy, MBA
Will County Treasurer
Broker, Dow Realty, Inc.
Executive Director,
The Irish-American
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Canaries In Media Mines

The '60s saw the end of that elaborate black beast, the hot lead linotype machine, and the end also of many newspapers, as cold type lithograph, offset and computerized printing revolutionized the dailies. But the two standard formats remain broadsheet and tabloid. Broadsheets retain an elite cachet that the New York Times, in particular, has sought to project and protect since Adolph Simon Ochs stamped "All the news that's fit to print" on his masthead 123 years ago. That motto implies there's no other news worth reading and alternative news sources are not fit to appear in polite society. It's the perfect dismissive expression for "elitists" fond of destructive marches aping China's Cultural Revolution. But, despite its lofty

slogan, trumpeted from its perch as "the nation's most important journalistic platform", the "newspaper of record", copied by the majority of 'mainstream media', the Times kneels to power. This I first realized in 1985 when that paper recalled back to New York reporter Jo Thomas, then being groomed as London Bureau Chief, after she insisted filing a Times Magazine feature from Northern Ireland sympathetic to Irish Catholics suffering a despotic British occupation.

Currently the Times is tangled in scandal over firing editorial writers James Bennett and Bari Weiss, who'd been hired by the paper surprised and embarrassed by 2016's election results. Weiss and Editorial Page editor James Bennett were to bring more diverse voices to the Times and include Americans living beyond the the cloistered mindset of

left-oriented big cities.

It's instructive to mention another Times scandal in 2003 when young black writer, Jayson Blair, was caught in gross plagiarism and fabrication of news articles. The Times then created special position, The Public Editor, a kind of ombudsman, to supervise journalism ethics and identify critical errors or omissions. That post ended abruptly on April 22, 2017, after Liz Spayd wrote a Public Editor piece reminding Times's executive editor Dean Baquet and publisher A.G. Sulzberger that following the election they had signed "an unusual joint letter to readers, promising... to report 'without fear or favor, striving

frustration over her last year at WSJ: "I was no longer able to write for the op-ed page because I kept getting stonewalled... told that my pieces were too critical of Trump and Trump supporters."

But the beginning of the end for Times diversity of thought came in early June, when an op-ed by Arkansas Senator Tom Cotton was published, suggesting the President send troops to American cities to end violent and destructive protests. According to a Morning Consult poll, such a policy is supported by 58% of Americans. However, some Times staffers, led by Black journalists, reacted strongly. Bennet "resigned". Weiss followed.



always to understand and reflect all political perspectives and life experiences in the stories that we bring to you." Spayd called it "An admirable goal considering the hermetic bubble that The Times and other news media are often accused of living in... Now, as the 100-day mark of the Trump administration approaches, it's time to ask: Is the Times following through on its promise to put an outstretched hand toward Red America? And, just as crucially, are readers ready for it?"

A month later the answer from the Times' "hermetic bubble" was a resounding "No!". Spayd's job was eliminated abruptly on May 31.

The Times then reached out, hiring leftist Atlantic's editor-in-chief James Bennett as Editorial Page editor. Bennett in turn hired columnist Bari Weiss and her fellow Wall Street Journal Pulitzer Prize-winning alum, Bret Stephens. Weiss is hardly a doctrinaire conservative. She expressed

In academia, a tiny fraction of professors and administrators have not yet bent the knee to the woke program – and those few left are being purged. The latest study of Harvard University faculty, for example, finds that only 1.46 percent call themselves conservative. But that's probably higher than the proportion of journalists who call themselves conservative at the New York Times or CNN or New York Magazine. And maybe it's worth pointing out that 'conservative' in my case means that I have passionately opposed Donald J. Trump and pioneered marriage equality..." (Sullivan listed his support for a litany of other leftist policies, including police reform and his support for Obama and Biden). "I have no idea what version of conservatism could ever be tolerated."

This problem affects all American fonts of knowledge: mass media outlets, online search services and academic institutions. The latest study of American campuses shows nearly 40% of the colleges surveyed did not have one professor on faculty who identified as Conservative. That is way out of line with America. Gallup last year reported 37% of Americans identify as conservative, 35% as moderate, and only 24% as liberal.

Weiss said the Times had not learned the lessons of "the importance of understanding other Americans, resisting tribalism, and the centrality of the free exchange of ideas to a democratic society." A Jew, she said colleagues at the paper "have called me a Nazi and a racist... employees publicly smear me as a liar and a bigot on Twitter... Showing up for work as a centrist at an American newspaper should not require bravery... intellectual curiosity—let alone risk-taking—is now a liability at The Times. ...The paper of record is, more and more, the record of those living in a distant galaxy (where) the worst caste systems in human history include the United States alongside Nazi Germany."

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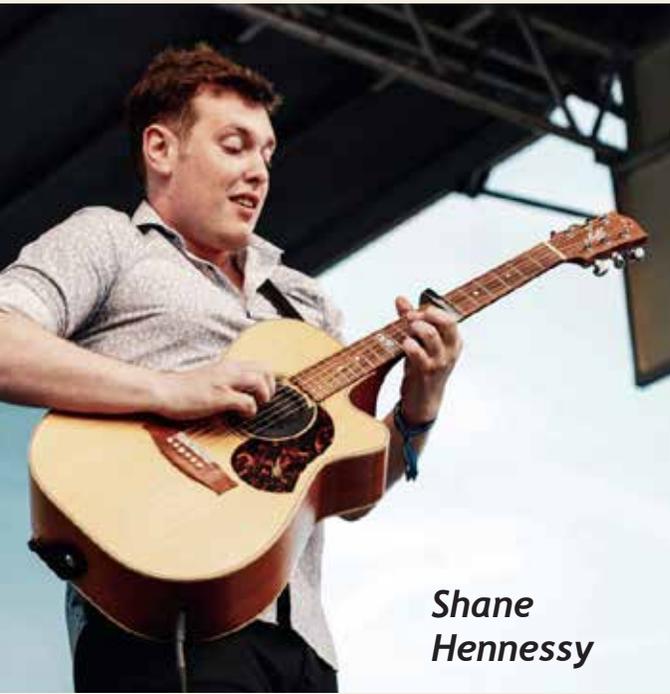
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Live Stream Program, August 13 - 16



*Shane
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The world's largest Irish music festival will not physically take place this year, but the organization behind Milwaukee Irish Fest, CelticMKE, is hosting a live stream program called Milwaukee Irish Fest At Home, which is presented by CiderBoys Hard Cider. The event will take place August 13 - 16, the weekend the festival would have been held. Milwaukee Irish Fest At Home will be infused with Celtic entertainment and culture for all ages.

The program will feature performances from Altan, Wallis Bird, The Henry Girls, Eileen Ivers + many more, archived shows from previous Irish Fests put together by CelticMKE's Ward Irish Music Archives, history, literature, art, language, cooking segments from Chef McDermott (Donegal) and Chef Og Gallagher (Dublin), Celtic music power hours, a CiderBoys Hard Cider happy hour, children's entertainment, and much, much more.

The program will be available to tune in for free on YouTube, Facebook and on their website at irishfest.com/athome, with the option to donate and support the organization throughout the weekend.

Milwaukee Irish Fest At Home will act as a fundraising initiative for the organization. Milwaukee Irish Fest is the nonprofit's signature fundraising event each year, and proceeds from the festival fuel CelticMKE's efforts in driving their mission of preserving and promoting the Celtic cultures.

CelticMKE's annual Summer School program is also taking place online and registration is now open. The Milwaukee Irish Fest Summer School At Home offers a number of master classes options that you can take from the comfort of your home. Classes range from Irish language, crafts, and culture to music (various instrument options) and dance. Some class examples are:

Uncovering Your Irish American Civil War Ancestors with Damian Shiels

Intellectual Life in Turn of Twentieth Century Ireland with Ambassador Daniel Mulhall

Irish Fingerstyle Guitar with Shane Hennessy

Tin Whistle with Joannie Madden

Milwaukee Irish Fest Summer School At Home takes place August 8 through 11. Details of each class option and registration available at irishfestsummerschool.com.

Save the date for Milwaukee Irish Fest At Home, August 13 - 16, and visit the website for more details and for tune-in information: irishfest.com/athome

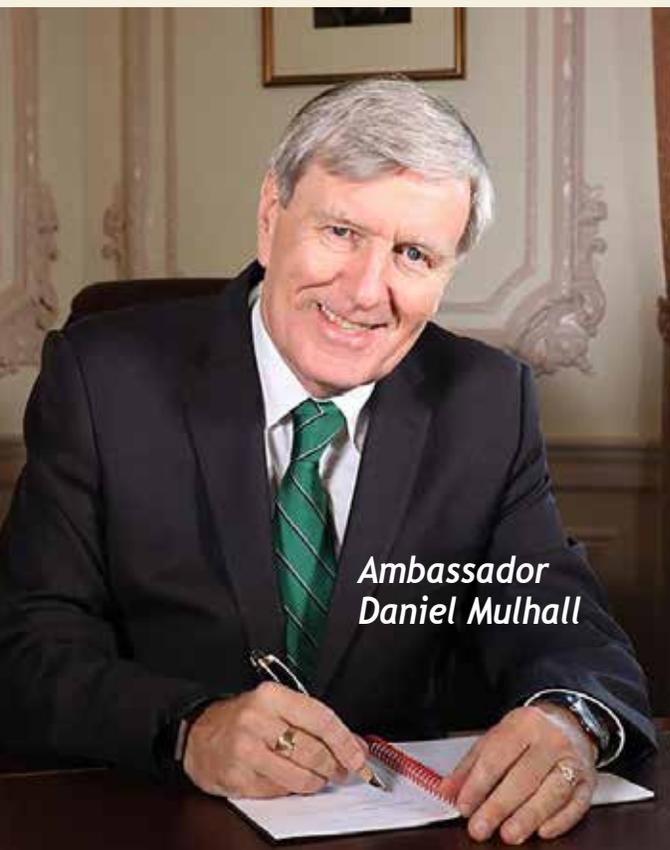


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5 Tips for Juicing Up Your Cold Calls

By Sam Dobbins

If you're in the cold calling business, picking up the phone can be one of the hardest things you do. Dial after dial, and rejection after rejection can leave you feeling defeated and demotivated. It's no wonder people burn out on cold calling in a relatively short time. You need more than rhinoceros skin. You need a magic bag of tricks to keep you motivated and successful. Here are some of my favorite tools to juice up my dialing day. Enjoy:

1: Don't Sell - Discover

Too often I see teleprospecting newbies get off to the wrong start by focusing on "sales." They see

quotas and listen to sales managers talk about the "bottom line," and this just sets them up for defeat. You are highly Unlikely to close most sales by telephone—especially if you're selling something complex. If you start your call focused on the close, you'll lose your way fast, and will probably lose the trust and interest of your prospect.

I like to change my mindset, by thinking of myself more as a detective or hunter than a sales guy. I use Discovery Calling to unveil information and opportunity rather than shoving a me-focused message onto unwilling ears. Ask question after question in

an open-ended way, and I think each call you make will provide great information, which is much more rewarding than the bleak rejection of a "no."

2: Wrong Name, Right Title

Before any call I make, I research the prospect's website. This is a basic step that many teleprospectors forget, yet is incredibly helpful in successful dialing. By using the names I find on the site, I can either ask for the right person, or give the right title that I'm searching for with another manager's name.

For example, let's say I'm looking for the director of IT, but his or her name isn't available on the company website. However the CFO is named Jordan Bills. I

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ask the receptionist/gatekeeper to speak to the IT director, Jordan Bills. He or she will inevitably "correct" me, which gives me the information I want when calling back later.

3: Deliver that Email Address

Often, the person I'm looking for is in a meeting or away from their desk. I ask for the email address and frequently am met with, "it's against company policy to hand out that kind of information." Many teleprospectors allow this to put an end to the call. Not me.

"I understand," I'll reply. "But perhaps you can forward an email if I send it to you?" More often than not, the gatekeeper is willing to share his/her own email and I can push my message through them.

4: Follow Up Actions

I could weep with frustration at people who call themselves professional teleprospectors, but who don't understand that the phone is just one tool in their arsenal. Follow up is hugely important. One of my favorite follow up tools is the handwritten note. I jot a few words that remind my prospect what we talked about, and often throw in a coffee card as a thank you. This may not result in them picking up the phone, but you can bet your next call in will be met much more warmly than your first call.

5: Tell Me You Don't Love Me

There are the ever-elusive prospects out there for every teleprospector. I think of them as the big game that hunters of old pursued. I dial, send messages, invite them

to lunch-and-learns and still they hide behind corporate walls and gatekeepers, unwilling to share a few minutes with a good person like me.

When this happens, I write one last email that says something like, "if I'm not welcome, send me an email that says STOP soliciting me, and you won't hear from me again." Yes, you will lose some prospects this way, but the end result is good no matter what. If they say "stop," you can remove them from the marketing list and stop wasting your time. You can show your manager you've done a good job, but this prospect is not in a sales timeframe. If they don't answer or reply that they're busy right now, you have a distinct action plan, and more knowledge about your prospect.

BONUS: Get to Know the Gatekeeper

Gatekeepers, those poor souls whose thankless job is to keep people like you from reaching your goals, are intricately involved with teleprospecting. I refer to these people as "Alice the Gatekeeper," in order to maintain sympathy for the person behind my rejections. Next article, I'll do an "interview" with my imaginary friend, Alice, so that you can think about ways to work with her instead of setting up the non-productive adversarial relationship that often exists between gatekeepers and teleprospecting pros.

Until then, keep up your Discovery Cold Calling!

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady

Snoozing Through a Dáil Vote with the Seanad Blues Again

Grim times, folks; and getting grimmer. So first of all let's have a smile with the Green Party. Not two things that normally go together - smiling and the Green Party - but last night (16th July) their leader Eamon Ryan contributed to the gaiety of the nation by very visibly dosing off in the Dáil. Not in the Dáil Bar either. And during a vote at that.

His name was called but no answer did there come, Eamon being deep in a dream of walking hand-in-hand through the trees with a Celtic Goddess of the Forest, telling her of his plans to tax the bejeepers out of the chumps who had voted him in.

Alerted by the snores coming from his rear, Jack Chambers of Fianna Fail gave him a holler, telling him to wake up before the cameras zoomed in on him. Too late!

"Huh? Whuzzat - ? Where the -- ? What time -- ? Oh be the hokeys, what's the vote for again?" "It's a motion on lower paid jobs and unemployment rights."

"Oh thanks be...! Nothing important then! Now, how did I say I was going to go on this one? I know I've got it written down here somewhere..."

Well, obviously I've made the dialogue up out of sheer maliciousness, not to mention the dream, not being in on Eamon's sleeptime fantasies. But yes, he did join Little Nemo in Slumberland and it was during a vote.

Mind you, after listening to the usual windbags droning on I can't entirely blame him - and it did give me a laugh, those being thin on the ground at the moment.

As with... We were asked to do one simple little thing. It wasn't a difficult thing, like Lex Luthor having to find a way to kill Superman. It was a simple little thing: stay reasonably sober. And many of us couldn't even do that. And now those same people actually have the nerve to whinge and whine about the bars in Ireland not opening on July the 20th after all. Not opening until August 10, in fact - and as Taoiste Leo Varadkar has just informed us, maybe not even then.

You would think that given my track record this would be the perfect time for a major bitching session against the Government; but you'd be wrong. Not when we have no one to blame for this but ourselves. And of course it's only a small minority, that's the unfortunate thing; a small minority of clowns who can't see farther than the end of their own noses. And the rest of us are affected.

Some of the shove-back is to do with the ongoing Covid figures, but much is because certain segments were let out of wherever they're normally caged up and went absolutely Ape - and that is certainly one of the factors that contributed to ordinary pubs having to remain shut.

How often have I banged on about the rising growth of the ridiculous Nanny State?

I've had a hang-up about authority my entire life. I had a hang-up about it as far back as my schooldays. I detest being told what to do.

But when the restaurants were given -after months of being closed -- the go-ahead to serve people a drink with

a meal, that was the point where we could have taken the decision to behave like civilized people, to police ourselves - but no, the Usual Suspects were straight out of the traps like a pack of demented greyhounds. And yes, they may be a minority but they are a big, loud, obnoxious, drunken minority. And in any case it only takes a minority of one infected person to help keep this damnable virus around the place.

When the pubs that were allowed to double as restaurants were able to open again, both the proprietors and their customers were given a set of guidelines to follow. They were to observe social distancing, be there for around 105 minutes and have a drink only with a meal.

And we really have been pretty compliant in trying to prevent the spread of this virus, going back to March 14th, when everywhere shut down. But instead of taking it easy...well, by now we've all seen the images of drinking to excess in the streets. And of course distancing goes out the window when booze is involved.

Of course the same beauties go ahead and boast on social media that they were in the pub/'restaurant' all day and had seven pints whereas normally they might have had three. Like bold bloody school kids showing off. Or telling their mates about the establishments that will give you a fake receipt saying that you've eaten.

The decent, law-abiding publicans will suffer because of the sheer foolishness of the few.

I don't know the answer to whether or not things should be opening up again. In fact there have been times lately when I've felt that I'm the only person in Ireland who isn't an expert. God knows everyone else seems to be one.

Yet overall this is one time when I am going to listen to the Government; because they are listening to the medical experts. And given the choice I'm going to listen to them over some social media warrior spouting the latest conspiracy theory any day of the week, despite my serious misapprehensions about the tourists being let in.

Before I go, I have to take back something I said just before all this took off. People had voted for a political change in Ireland and that change seemed to include giving Sinn Fein a real chance for once. Well, the Coronavirus outbreak changed everything and one of the unfortunate fallouts of it was that we're pretty much stuck now with the same old pitiless and corrupt regime. And I don't know that SF would have been any different but I'd like to have found out for myself.

However, I had shown quite a bit of unrepentant glee in seeing Regina Doherty being told once and for all that she was not wanted by the voters.

But that was before Micheál Martin - who was NEVER going to make deals with certain other parties under ANY condition - suddenly realised that he wanted to be Taoiseach, even if it was by default, more than he wanted to retain a shred of honour.

One of the first things he does...? He appoints Doherty, who should by all rights be on her way out the door at this point, as Leader of the Seanad.

Now get this: only seven years ago Doherty led the campaign to ABOLISH the Seanad, and in fact said at the time that it was 'undemocratic and elitist'. Now she's leading it.

There's our politicians' sense of honour for you. It can be bought for something that's not even worth much in the scheme of things.

And can I just remind American readers once again that saying you're an Irish senator is very different to what it means in the States? As you can see from Ms. Doherty the Seanad is by and large a retirement home, based on cronism, which rescues failed politicians from oblivion and keeps them endlessly on the Gravy Train.

And they're not even bothering to hide the fact that they are chancers and opportunists anymore.
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Tips on Dealing with (Business) Debt

This is the 2nd installment of a series begun in the May issue of this newspaper. In these 60 days it has become apparent that traversing the current economic environment will be a long haul for many businesses. If you were fortunate enough to come into this situation with a wealth of cash, using it conservatively to keep a valuable business is a wise course of action. On the other hand, if you are cash impaired and have debt to deal with along with your expenses, staying in business is a more complex problem. The recommendations in this article are geared toward businesses but are also applicable to nonbusiness situations.

Previously we discussed how to approach landlords to address your problems in paying rent. As it has worked out, over the last 2 months landlords have borne a large share of the burdens of the current economic situation.

As a result, many commercial landlords are open to discussing rent modifications which they would not ordinarily consider. Remember to get any favorable arrangements in writing.

I will be covering mortgages in this article (general debt next month). Business owners should consider several variables when facing a mortgage default, particularly if you have significant equity in the building and want to keep it. If you don't have much equity in the building and particularly if the business doesn't look promising or doesn't require the building, "letting the building go" is a legitimate option.

In the case of most small businesses, the mortgage is a direct liability of the owner or the owner has signed to personally guarantee its payment. If you don't pay your mortgage, the

bank or other lender will ordinarily allow you to fall behind for approximately 90 days before their attorneys begin foreclosure. Most businesses owners have been in default for approximately five months before they find themselves in a full-blown foreclosure lawsuit. During that time, late fees, default interest, legal fees and other costs accumulate. Getting

out of a foreclosure involves far more expense than simply catching up on the arrearage.

After those first five months, and once you are served with commercial foreclosure paperwork, you generally have six months during which you have the right to unfettered use and occupancy of the building. This means that if you are trying to save your ownership of a building, you still have at least six additional months to handle it.

If you are simply "riding out" the ownership of a building you don't intend to keep, you have six months of "free" use before you must move on. In all events it is a good idea to consult with a professional to check the dates and your options, and to make sure you do what you can to protect your personal assets from the fallout.

If you are trying to keep the building, the first line of defense is, of course, to try to make the mortgage payments. If your business generates the income, great. If not, work with the bank or mortgage company for a forbearance period, an extension of the mortgage, a refinance, an interest rate reduction, or another option. Try not to fall more than two months behind and try to act before a foreclosure has begun. A foreclosure on a credit report, particularly an active one, significantly limits the mitigation options available.

The Federal Government, through the banks and the Small Business Administration, is making extensive efforts to put cash

into the hands of small business owners (two trillion dollars, a lot to move). It is possible to get large loans, and the documents required to apply have been simplified. Taking out large loans to save a sinking business is generally unwise. On the other hand, taking out a large loan to save desirable real estate, particularly if there is equity, can make sense - it's trading debt for debt, and the new debt could carry a

lower interest rate. If your credit has taken a beating through your years in business, you may have to work with a co-signer or find an investor or someone to remortgage your property for you. That person could be a family member. In an understanding family,

it can be done with a minimum of friction while protecting the investor. Within a certain range, it is also possible to raise your credit score up to the relatively moderate scores the government is currently accepting.

If working with the bank or obtaining SBA help is not an option, this year the Federal Government is allowing individuals who have saved in 401(k)'s and IRA's to withdraw up to \$100,000 without the usual penalties, and is allowing them to spread the income tax over three years, if they are experiencing economic difficulties due to the pandemic. There are specific requirements to qualify for this treatment, however many small businesses will be able to make this option fit. Using retirement funds to save a business ordinarily isn't a good idea, but because you are eliminating debt on real estate, exchanging an asset for debt, it is primarily a trade, not an outright loss. The withdrawal is still taxable, making it an expensive way to go, but the option is worth consideration. Real estate may be a better hedge against risk than a 401(k) investment, though at this point that is speculation.

There are other options to help you save a business building in this environment, including possibilities provided by the bankruptcy chapters. I am not covering those complex options in this article. Do what you can to avoid carrying unnecessary business debt and burdens. The upcoming months promise enough of a challenge without you dragging around unnecessary weights, and I look forward to writing for you next month.

By Thomas W. Lynch J.D., C.P.A. with assistance of William C. Bremer B.A., who work with each other at the Law Office of Thomas W. Lynch P.C. in Hickory Hills, Illinois. 708 598-5999

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – AUGUST 2020

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer and finding new and old ways to connect with those around you!

I am honored, humbled, and privileged to assume the role of President of the Board of Directors. I am extremely grateful to Mike Shevlin, my predecessor and previous president, for his outstanding contributions and leadership during his presidency, and to the members of our Executive Board of 2019. I am inspired and encouraged by their commitment to the Irish American Heritage Center and of all their achievements at the Center. The growth and maintenance of the IAHC have been propelled collectively by members of the Executive Board, the Board of Directors, and our volunteers who make our organization strong. I look forward to continuing the important work towards fulfilling the mission of the IAHC.

In this new role, I want to be the first to welcome Tim Taylor as Vice President, Tony McHale as Treasurer, and JoAnn Fergus as Secretary; I am looking forward to working closely with them and the others on our Board to continue moving the Center forward. I am so proud of what the IAHC has been able to weather through the adverse COVID19 environment, and how and how the Board has, and continues to, serve our Center through these challenging times. With their continued support, and the support of our volunteers and members, I am confident that we will be steadfast in addressing the pressing challenges in responding to the current pandemic environment and finding new and creative ways to connect with our membership.

We continue to find new ways to connect with our community and celebrate our Irish heritage! This summer, we kicked off our IAHC Virtual Summer School program, which is comprised of music classes, dance classes, creative writing workshops, art classes, and more! The Francis O'Neill Irish Arts Week was during the week of July 25th through July 31st, and this virtual arts camp gave kids and adults opportunities to learn more about Irish music, singing, dancing, and more in an immersive online format. We hosted "A Visit with Typhoid Mary" on-



line as part of our Tea series and continue to share the best Irish culture has to offer on our social media pages. Our continued goal is to bring us together while we stay apart.

As we tentatively remain in Phase 4 of the city's reopening plan, our Board of Directors remains committed to determine the safest and most responsible way to reopen the Center. Our Gift Shop is now open on Saturdays from 12:00 to 4:00pm for in-person shopping, and pre-order for curbside pickup. We have all your favorite Irish foods, Galway Bakers' baked goods, and more! Need a new golf umbrella or polo to sport on the greens? We have you covered! If you'll be shopping in store, please remember to bring your mask, as they are required for entry into the building, and practice safe distancing.

I am extremely excited for this opportunity to serve our community and the IAHC as president, and I look forward connecting with you all virtually and, once we're safely able to, in person!

Nicole McDonagh-Tueffel
President, Irish American Heritage Center



VIRTUAL SUMMER SCHOOL

Music, art, dance, creative writing...Long-time partners of the Irish American Heritage Center are offering virtual fun and learning for the young and the young at heart. If you are looking for some fun for Summer - and beyond! - go to irish-american.org. We have you covered!

WELCOME BACK TRINITY!

We are so happy to see our young friends from the Trinity Academy of Irish Dance back in the building for safe, monitored in-person classes. We hope it's only the beginning!



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DID YOU GET A REFUND?

Auto Insurers Claimed Generosity in Issuing Premium Rebates. Hello August IAN Readers. I hope this month finds everyone well and safe as we slowly emerge from the fog of hopefully the worst of the global COVID-19 pandemic being behind us. I am sure over the last few weeks and months, you have seen the commercials from automobile insurers offering rebates on your auto policies. Lower traffic during these unprecedented times, means lower insurance claims as a whole and seemingly Insurance companies are giving back. But beware - insurance regulatory filings and financial statements show there is more to the story.



Gallagher's Advice

By Caroleann Gallagher



This spring, when government orders forced businesses to cut back or close and workers to stay home, many companies reduced their advertising. The only companies left to buy airtime seemed to be those that delivered food or sold auto insurance. The car insurance theme has been: we are in this together...so we are giving back. They are cheering their own generosity, part of their never-ending effort to improve their reputations. However, it is important to remember, they are spending your premium dollars to get the word out.

Everything insurance companies do: paying claims, paying investigators, paying lawyers or even paying for advertising that paints them in a favorable light, it all comes from your premium payments. Now, with less drivers on the roadways and less crashes, they are awash in cash. But the reality is, claims have dropped so much that the insurers can afford the refunds, so do not feel that they are simply being generous.

The Chicago Sun-Times published a

review of the numbers on Sunday, July 6, 2020. Reporter Stephanie Zimmerman cited that refunds ranged from 15% to 20% of a monthly premium (typical refunds were limited to just two months of payments). But accident claims for some companies are down 60%. The consumer federation estimates the springtime refunds from car insurers should have been closer to 30%. And it's urging that refunds be continued this summer as many Americans are still working from home, driving less – and getting into fewer accidents that insurers have to pay claims for.

Insurers Profiting Despite Refunds

When four other states mandated refunds, the Illinois Department of Insurance did not. Nothing more than a suggestion. As a result, Illinois drivers are still being left behind. Because most companies stopped the refunds in May even though traffic continues to lag behind normal trends. Keep in mind: insurance companies calculated the premiums they charged you based upon historic traffic and crash data. They gather enormous information on how many crashes happened, how much they cost, how many injuries happened and how severe they were.

Insurance is expensive. Illinois law requires that drivers carry minimum insurance to cover injuries that might result

from a crash. We have advised our clients for years, that the best insurance you can get against other drivers is a good, full-coverage insurance policy. But it does not mean that Insurance companies generously do the right thing, when you need them to. They do not profit from being generous. And it takes a lot to get them to do the right thing.

That's why we are reminding our clients and our friends: you still need a good lawyer to have a fair fight with an insurance company. Everyone here is glad that traffic is down. It is genuinely wonderful that there are less fatalities and catastrophic injuries thanks to less driving being done. But when crashes do happen, the insurance company is not going to generously make you or your loved ones whole. Even when they boast about giving money away, it's because they're seeing massive profits. If you have questions about a crash or injuries, please give us a call.

**Caroleann Gallagher is an Irish born Attorney now licensed in Illinois and practicing all types of personal injury law - including nursing home litigation, medical malpractice law, wrongful death claims, transportation injuries, premises liability claims, defective product claims, construction site injuries and Workers Compensation. She can be contacted at cgallagher@dwyercoogan.com or at 312-543-4642.*

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Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



the salesman away, he doesn't have time to see (listen) to some sales person.

The late Dr. Patrick Scanlon of Loyola University's Medical School continuously told his students that if you listen to your patients, probably as many as 90% will tell you what is wrong with them. Yet many doctors don't actually listen to a recitation of your ills. This same practice is equally widespread in business.

Why doesn't the boss listen? Is s/he too busy to pay attention? Or is s/he too focused on something else? Is it possible that they don't want to hear the news they're being told?

In a Masterpiece Theater performance, the Virgin Queen (Elizabeth) of England says to her key confidant on her ascendancy to the throne, "you must tell me the truth even if I am upset with you for doing so. I will try to never hold your message against you, for you are my most important confidant."

In William Manchester's book, *Goodbye, Darkness*, he describes an incident that happened to him during World War II in the Pacific. Marine Sergeant Manchester and his men were pinned down behind a sea wall, waiting for the Japanese automatic fire to stop. A green young officer tells him that they are going over the top to knock out the enemy pill boxes. Manchester tells him that neither he nor his men are going to "go over the top" regardless what this officer says. They are combat veterans and they know better. The officer called Manchester and his men cowards. He then leads the non-existent charge and is killed within a few feet. Manchester says that he should have listened to the combat veterans, but he "knew" better than they. His unwillingness to listen got him killed.

If you are the boss/supervisor/president/or parent, how can you elicit legitimate input? You need to be PRESENT for the persons in your life, whether at home or the plant or office. If not, someone will ultimately tell you that you weren't there for them. You simply weren't listening. Commonly people hope that you will accept their input, but may not necessarily anticipate that you implement their particular point of view. But they do want to feel that they have had a chance to state their opinions.

I have spent a good part of my professional life dealing with senior executives. I cannot recall very many of them admitting that they didn't listen to their subordinates. Most seem to feel that they listen carefully to their staff. But their staff members privately tell a different story, theirs are "They don't listen." Many times the supervisor believes his own "press clippings"; that he has all the answers. The supervisor may make comments like "I don't want to hear about losses." Why? Because it doesn't fit their narrative.

Wouldn't you think that the boss who is paying good salaries throughout his organi-

zation would want to hear other insights and opinions? But frequently subordinates report that they find that the boss is preoccupied, inattentive, distant or distracted. There is no doubt that you need to be more attentive to your subordinates and the information they are providing you. Bob McCoy, a former EVP with Dominicks Finer Foods says that 90% or more of bosses don't get solid input from their subordinates.

Listening to your subordinates clearly pays off. The McDonald Corporation states proudly that a great number of their products have been developed by their franchisees. They developed products because they understood their processes very well. And their bosses listened. How about your company?

The boss needs to make himself available to the employees of the organization, without any barriers. S/he needs to walk the plant floor. S/he needs to be seen as vulnerable. S/he should make it quite clear that a contrary idea can be as helpful as one in total agreement with the boss' view. The boss has a lot of power over his employees: salary level, job security and career advancement. Think about it, who is going to challenge that unless they believe it is permissible. Many employees are risk adverse; particularly in these volatile times.

Now if you are on the other side of the desk trying to get your boss' attention, you might consider these few thoughts. You need to establish your credibility early and often. You need to reinforce your image as a positive contributor. You want the best for the total corporation. You want to help to make your boss feel secure. You are not trying to undermine anyone. Rather you are striving to help the boss reach higher levels within the organization. You are working in the best interests of the boss. Of course, your ideas may not be accepted the first or second time, but persistence will pay off. Stay the course; pick your battles carefully,

Always use a respectful tone when you disagree with the boss. Such deference does not mean that you don't believe in your position 100%, but rather it is to your advantage to always be courteous and well spoken in stating your position.

Work out a logical approach on how you are going to present your data. Have a written agenda for any meeting of more than just a few minutes. Demonstrate that this meeting is important and you are well prepared; this is not a casual hallway conversation. Think carefully about how to frame your comments, so others can readily accept them. Clearly state how your approach would help the company. Apply the KISS principle (keep it simple, stupid).

So if you are a boss or have a boss or wish to be a boss, you must learn to be sensitive to the communication needs integral to the process of human interaction. **CARPE DIEM.**

FOR YOUR FURTHER CONSIDERATION:

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James F. Fitzgerald is the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc. a Naperville, IL based Senior Executive Coaching and Career Transition firm.

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Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler



Who is Samantha Power?

She is an author, journalist, diplomat, human rights scholar and served as the 28th United States Ambassador to the United Nations. She was born in London but raised in Dublin until she was nine and then her family emigrated to Pennsylvania.

Power holds degrees from Harvard Law school (Mass.) & from Yale University (Ct.) She is described as courageous, intelligent, compassionate, ambitious, driven & a woman of integrity. Power began her career as a war correspondent covering the Yugoslav Wars before starting an academic career. She was the executive director of the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School where she later served first Anna Lindh Professor of Global Leadership and Public Policy. She was an advisor to Senator Barack Obama. Power joined the Obama State Department transition, she served as Special Assistant to the President for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights on the National Security Council.

To give some background on the United Nations. It is a global organization that aims to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations & achieve international cooperation. It aims to protect human rights, deliver aid and uphold international law. It is the largest international organization in the world. The UN headquarters is in NYC and other main offices are in Geneva, Switzerland, and The Netherlands.

The UN was established after WW II with the aim of preventing future wars. The world has seen wars after WW II unfortunately. (Bosnian war, Iraq war, Korean war etc.) In 1945, 50 governments met for a conference and drafted the UN. UN membership grew significantly following widespread decolonization. Since

then, 80 former colonies have gained independence.

The UN specialized agencies include the World Bank, the World Health Org, the World Food program, UNESCO and UNICEF. UN's chief administrative officer is the, Secretary General currently Portuguese politician and diplomat Antonio Guterres. The current United States Ambassador to the UN is Kelly Croft from Kentucky.

The UN has won many peace prizes and several Nations benefit from the UN. However, some people say the UN is corrupt and not making a big difference in the world or that they don't do what they claim they do. A few weeks ago, Ireland won a seat on the United Nations security council. It is well deserved because Ireland for a small Nation has contributed enormously to the U.N.'s peacekeeping mission around the world.

In 2016 Power was listed as the 41st most powerful woman in the world by Forbes. This past January Power was honored at "Nollaig na mBan event, Women's leadership in Boston. Power is a subject of the documentary "Watchers of the sky" a documentary about the prevention of genocide. Other documentaries Power is a part of include, The Final year, The Armenian Genocide & Sergio. (about UN diplomat Sergio Viera de Mello. Books by Power, "A Problem from

Hell", "Chasing the Flame", & "The Education of an Idealist -A Memoir".

I want to say go raibh mile maith agat Your Excellency Madam Ambassador Samantha Power for your work & being a role model to so many in the States, Ireland & around the world. Spreagann tu go bhfuil aon rud indeanta. (you inspire that anything is possible.)

Gaelic for the Month

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"History is laden with belligerent leaders using humanitarian rhetoric to mask geopolitical aims. History also shows how often ill-informed moralism has led to foreign entanglements that do more harm than good."

Samantha Power

"Countries that intervene militarily rarely do so out of pure altruism." Samantha Power

"When dictators feel their support slipping among adults, it is not unusual for them to alter school textbooks in the hope of enlisting impressionable youths in their cause." Samantha Power

I would like to wish my parents, Tom & Mary Butler a very Happy 52nd Wedding Anniversary, I hope they have many more special years ahead.

I would also like to say Happy 3rd Anniversary to my darling husband Mike, you are my daily dose of sunshine. "So, I love you because the entire universe conspired to help me find you."

Paul Coelho

If you have any questions/comments, please find me at: Molanive@yahoo.com

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